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COUNTRIES: KAZAKHSTAN - ZIMBABWE

SIERRA LEONE

Introductory Survey

Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital

The Republic of Sierra Leone lies on the west coast of Africa, with Guinea to the north and east, and Liberia to the south. The climate is hot and humid, with an average annual temperature of 27°C (80°F). The rainy season lasts from May to October. The average annual rainfall is about 3,436 mm (13.5 ins). English is the official language, while Krio (Creole), Mende, Limba and Temne are also widely spoken. The majority of the population follow animist beliefs, but there are significant numbers of Islamic and Christian adherents. The national flag (proportions 2 by 3) has three equal horizontal stripes, of green, white and blue. The capital is Freetown.

Recent History

Sierra Leone was formerly a British colony and protectorate. A new Constitution, which provided for universal adult suffrage, was introduced in 1951. In that year the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) won the majority of votes in elections. The leader of the SLPP, Dr (later Sir) Milton Margai, became Chief Minister in 1953 and Prime Minister in 1958. On 27 April 1961 Sierra Leone achieved independence as a constitutional monarchy within the Commonwealth. The SLPP retained its majority at elections in May 1962. Margai died in April 1964 and was succeeded as Prime Minister by his half-brother, Dr (later Sir) Albert Margai, previously the Minister of Finance.

Following disputed elections in March 1967, the army assumed control and established a ruling body, the National Reformation Council. The Governor-General was subsequently forced to leave the country. In December a commission of inquiry announced that the All-People's Congress (APC) had won the elections in March. In April 1968 a further coup was staged by army officers, and power was subsequently transferred to a civilian Government; Dr Siaka Stevens, the leader of the APC, was elected as Prime Minister. In April 1971 a republican Constitution was introduced and Stevens became executive President.

The general election in May 1973 was not contested by the SLPP, and in 1976 Stevens, the sole candidate, was unanimously re-elected to the presidency for a second five-year term of office. In May 1977 the APC won the majority of votes in legislative elections, which were contested by the SLPP; however, outbreaks of violence and allegations of corruption and intimidation were reported. In July the House of Representatives ruled that the SLPP was no longer the official opposition party, on the grounds that it was incapable of undertaking government administration. A new Constitution, which provided for a one-party system, was promulgated in May 1978, approved in a national referendum and adopted by the House of Representatives in June. The APC thus became the sole legitimate political organization. Stevens was inaugurated as President for a seven-year term on 14 June 1978. He subsequently released political detainees and allocated ministerial posts to several former SLPP members (who had joined the APC).

The Government faced increasing opposition in 1981, following a scandal involving government officials and several cabinet ministers in the misappropriation of public funds. Legislative elections took place in May 1982, amid serious incidents of violence. Civil unrest, prompted by economic hardship, subsequently increased. In April 1985 Stevens announced that (contrary to earlier indications) he would not seek re-election to the presidency upon the expiry, in June, of his existing mandate. Stevens' term of office was subsequently extended for six months, to allow time for registration of voters and the nomination of a presidential candidate. At a conference of the APC in August, Maj-Gen. Joseph Momoh, a cabinet minister and the Commander of the Army, was the sole candidate for the leadership of the party and for the presidential nomination. Momoh was elected to the national presidency in October, with 99% of the votes cast, and was inaugurated on 28 November. Although retaining his military status, Momoh appointed a civilian Cabinet, which included several members of the previous administration. Elections to the House of Representatives took place in May 1986.

Despite a campaign against financial malpractice in the public sector, Momoh's administration failed to improve the serious economic situation, and popular discontent increased. In March 1987 the Government announced that it had suppressed an attempted coup; more than 60 people were subsequently arrested, including the First Vice-President, Francis Minah. In October Minah and 15 other defendants were sentenced to death for plotting to assassinate Momoh and to overthrow the Government, and two defendants received custodial sentences for misprison of treason. In October 1989 Minah and five others were executed, despite international appeals for clemency.

Following the outbreak of civil conflict in Liberia in December 1989, an estimated 125,000 Liberians took refuge in Sierra Leone. The Sierra Leonean Government contributed troops to the cease-fire monitoring group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS, see p. 205), which was dispatched to Liberia in August 1990. In November of that year Charles Taylor, the leader of the principal Liberian rebel faction, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), threatened to attack Freetown International Airport (alleged to be a base for ECOMOG offensives against rebel strongholds). In early April 1991, following repeated border incursions by members of the NPFL, government forces entered Liberian territory and launched a retaliatory attack against NPFL bases. By the end of that month, however, NPFL forces had advanced 150 km within Sierra Leone. The Momoh Government alleged that the rebel offensive had been instigated by Taylor, in an attempt to force Sierra Leone's withdrawal from ECOMOG, and also accused the Government of Burkina Faso of actively assisting the rebels. It was reported, however, that members of a Sierra Leonean resistance movement, known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), had joined the NPFL in attacks against government forces. In mid-1991 government troops, with the assistance of military units from Nigeria and Guinea, initiated a counter-offensive against the rebels, and succeeded in recapturing several towns in the east and south of the country.

In August 1990, at a session of the Central Committee of the APC, Momoh (who had hitherto made clear his opposition to the establishment of a multi-party political system) conceded the necessity of electoral reforms, and announced an extensive review of the Constitution. Momoh subsequently appointed a 30-member National Constitutional Review Commission, which was to revise the Constitution. In March 1991 the Commission submitted a draft Constitution, which provided for the adoption of a multi-party system, for consideration by the Government. The new Constitution stipulated that the President, who was to appoint the Cabinet, was to be elected by a majority of votes cast nationally and by at least 25% of the votes cast in more than one-half of the electoral districts. Members of the legislature were to be elected by universal adult suffrage for a term of five years. The Government subsequently accepted the majority of the Commission's recommendations. In June the Government presented the draft Constitution to the House of Representatives, and announced that the parliamentary term, which was due to end that month, was to be extended until May 1992 to allow time for the transition to a multi-party system.

In early August 1991 the House of Representatives formally approved the new Constitution, and at a national referendum, which was conducted later in August, the new Constitution was endorsed by 60% of voters, with 75% of the electorate participating. On 3 September the Government formally adopted the new Constitution. In the same month six newly created political associations formed an alliance, known as the United Front of Political Movements (UNIFOM), which subsequently demanded that the forthcoming elections be monitored by international observers, and that the incumbent Government be dissolved and an interim administration established. On 23 September, following the resignation of the First Vice-President and Second Vice-President from both the APC and the Government, Momoh announced the formation of a new 18-member Cabinet, which retained only seven members of the previous Government. Later that month legislation that formally permitted the formation of political associations was introduced; several organizations

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were subsequently granted legal recognition. In December, following discussions between Momoh and leaders of the other registered political parties, the opposition movements pledged to co-operate in the establishment of a multi-party system.

On 29 April 1992 members of the armed forces, led by a five-member military junta, seized a radio station in Freetown and broadcast demands for improvements in conditions in the armed forces. The rebel troops later occupied the presidential offices, and the leader of the military junta, Capt. Valentine E. M. Strasser, announced that the Government had been overthrown. On the following day Momoh fled to Guinea, and Strasser announced the establishment of a governing council, to be known as the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC). Strasser affirmed the NPRC's commitment to the introduction of a multi-party system, and pledged to end the conflict in the country. On the same day the Constitution was suspended, the House of Representatives was dissolved and a state of emergency, which included a curfew, was imposed. On 1 May the NPRC (which principally comprised military officers), chaired by Strasser, was formed. Shortly afterwards a new 19-member Cabinet, which included a number of members of the NPRC, was appointed, and the Commander of the Armed Forces and the head of the security forces were replaced. On 6 May Strasser was inaugurated as Head of State.

In July 1992 Strasser replaced the three members of the NPRC in the Cabinet with civilians, and removed all civilian cabinet ministers from the NPRC. Later that month he announced extensive structural changes, which were designed to reduce the direct involvement of the NPRC in government administration: the NPRC was officially designated the Supreme Council of State, while the Cabinet was reconstituted as the Council of Secretaries (headed by the Chief Secretary of State), which was to be responsible for government administration, subject to the authority of the NPRC. In the same month the Government introduced legislation that imposed severe restrictions on the media.

In September 1992 the Deputy Chairman of the NPRC, Capt. Solomon A. J. Musa, temporarily assumed the office of Head of State during a visit by Strasser to the USA. In that month Musa suspended a number of senior army officers and members of the security forces. In November some 30 people, who were alleged to be supporters of Momoh, were arrested by the security forces and charged with involvement in subversive activities. In early December Strasser announced a reorganization of the Council of Secretaries, in which the two remaining members of the Momoh administration were replaced. In the same month Musa became Chief Secretary of State. Later in December, in an apparent attempt to regain public support, the Government established a 19-member National Advisory Council, comprising representatives of various non-governmental organizations, which was to draft a programme for transition to civilian rule.

At the end of December 1992 the Government announced that the security forces had suppressed a coup attempt by a group known as the Anti-Corruption Revolutionary Movement (which included former members of the army and security forces). Shortly afterwards nine of those accused of involvement in the attempted coup were convicted by a special military tribunal, and, together with 17 prisoners who had been convicted in November on charges of treason, were summarily executed. Human rights organizations subsequently contested the Government's statement that a coup attempt had been staged, and condemned the trial by special military tribunal. In January 1993 the United Kingdom announced the suspension of economic aid to Sierra Leone in protest at the executions.

In April 1993 Strasser announced that a programme providing for a transition to civilian rule within a period of three years was to be adopted; in addition, all political prisoners were to be released, press restrictions would be relaxed, and the function of special military tribunals was to be reviewed. In July Musa was replaced as Deputy Chairman of the NPRC and Chief Secretary of State by Capt. Julius Maada Bio, ostensibly on the grounds that false allegations against him had proved detrimental to the stability of the administration. Musa (who was widely believed to be responsible for the repressive measures undertaken by the Government) took refuge in the Nigerian high commission in Freetown, amid widespread speculation regarding his dismissal, and subsequently emigrated to the United Kingdom.

At the end of November 1993 Strasser announced the details of a two-year transitional programme, which provided for the installation of a civilian government by January 1996. The

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registration of political parties was to take place in June 1995, prior to a presidential election in November and legislative elections in December of that year. In December a five-member Interim National Electoral Commission was established to organize the registration of voters and the demarcation of constituency boundaries, in preparation for forthcoming local government elections. In the same month the National Advisory Council submitted constitutional proposals (which included a number of similar provisions to the 1991 Constitution), stipulating that: executive power was to be vested in the President, who was to be required to consult with the Cabinet, and was to be restricted to a tenure of two four-year terms of office; only Sierra Leonean nationals of more than 40 years of age were to qualify to contest a presidential election (thereby precluding Strasser and the majority of NPRC members, on the grounds of age); the legislature was to comprise a House of Representatives, which was to be elected by universal adult suffrage for a term of five years, and a 30-member upper chamber, the Senate.

At the end of December 1993 the Government ended the state of emergency that had been imposed in April 1992 (although additional security measures remained in force). In April 1994 13 senior members of the armed forces were dismissed, following widespread criticism of the Government's failure to end continued conflict in the south-east of the country with the RUF, led by Foday Sankoh, which, in 1991, had joined Liberian rebels in attacks against government forces. In July a National Security Council, chaired by Strasser, was established to co-ordinate the operations of the armed forces. Later that month it was reported that the RUF (which had been joined by disaffected members of the armed forces) had besieged the principal town of Kenema, near the border with Liberia, and was exploiting diamond reserves in the region.

In October 1994 a draft Constitution was submitted to the NPRC. However, an increase in rebel activity in many parts of the country, with widespread looting and killing by armed groups, prevented the organization of district council elections, which had been scheduled to take place later that month. In January 1995 the RUF gained control of the mining installations owned by the Sierra Leone Ore and Metal Company (SIEROMCO) and Sierra Rutile Ltd, and seized a number of employees of the two enterprises, including eight foreign nationals. Later in January seven Roman Catholic nuns, together with a number of Sierra Leonean citizens, were abducted, following an attack by the RUF against the north-western town of Kambia. In the same month the RUF threatened to kill the British hostages if the Sierra Leonean authorities executed an officer, who had been convicted by military tribunal of collaborating with the rebels. In February the RUF rejected appeals by the UN and the Organization of African Unity (OAU, now the African Union, see p. 144) that peace negotiations be initiated, and demanded that all troops that had been dispatched by foreign Governments to assist the Strasser administration be withdrawn as a precondition to discussions. In mid-February government forces (which had succeeded in recapturing the mining installations owned by Sierra Rutile) launched an offensive against a principal rebel base in the Kangari region, east of Freetown. Meanwhile, continued atrocities perpetrated against civilians were increasingly attributed to disaffected members of the armed forces.

In February 1995 the military administration engaged 58 Gurkha mercenaries, who had previously served in the British army, prompting further concern regarding the safety of the British hostages in Sierra Leone. In March government forces regained control of the mining installations owned by SIEROMCO and the principal town of Moyamba, 100 km south-east of Freetown (which had been captured by the RUF earlier that month). Later that month the rebels released the seven nuns who had been abducted in January. Despite the successful counter-offensives by government forces, by April the RUF had advanced towards Freetown and had initiated a series of attacks against towns in the vicinity (including Songo, which was situated only 35 km east of Freetown), apparently prior to besieging the capital. Later in April the remaining foreign nationals who had been seized by the RUF were released.

In March 1995 the Council of Secretaries was reorganized to allow principal military officials in the Government to assume active functions within the armed forces (following the advance of RUF forces towards Freetown); Lt-Col Akim Gibril became Chief Secretary of State, replacing Bio, who was appointed Chief of Defence Staff. At the end of April, on the anniversary of the NPRC's assumption of power, Strasser formally announced that

the ban on political activity was to be rescinded, and that a National Consultative Conference was to be convened to discuss the transitional process; he further indicated that elections were to take place by the end of that year, prior to the installation of a civilian government in January 1996, in accordance with the transitional programme. The ban on political activity was formally ended on 21 June; some 15 parties were subsequently granted registration (although the RUF failed to respond to government efforts to include the movement in the electoral process). Later in June 56 former government officials, including Momoh, were prohibited from assuming public office for a period of 10 years (and thereby precluded from contesting the elections), after the government commissions of inquiry concluded that they had misused public funds.

In May 1995 government forces initiated a number of counter-attacks against the RUF, and succeeded in recapturing Songo. The Governments of Guinea and Nigeria dispatched additional troops to Sierra Leone, while it was reported that mercenaries recruited via a private South African concern were assisting the authorities with military training and logistics. By the end of June government forces had regained control of significant diamond-mining regions in the eastern Kono District, and part of Bo District, in a successful counter-offensive, which was generally attributed to the assistance of the mercenaries. In September, however, the RUF launched further offensives in Bo District, while increasing reports of massacres and other violations of human rights perpetrated by the rebels against the civilian population emerged.

In October 1995, while Strasser was abroad, a coup attempt was suppressed by government forces; seven military officers were subsequently arrested on suspicion of attempting to overthrow the Government. In December it was announced that the presidential and legislative elections were to take place concurrently on 26 February 1996. In January 1996, however, Strasser was deposed by military officers, led by Bio, in a bloodless coup. Bio, who assumed the office of Head of State, announced that the coup had been instigated in response to efforts by Strasser to remain in power. (It was reported that Strasser had indicated that he intended to amend restrictions on the age of prospective candidates to enable himself to contest the elections.) Strasser (who had been expelled to Guinea) claimed, however, that the new military administration planned to delay the transition to civilian government. A reconstituted Supreme Council of State and Council of Secretaries were formed, and, following a meeting of the new military leadership, the political parties and INEC, it was announced that the elections were to take place as scheduled. The RUF indicated that it was prepared to enter into negotiations with the new Government, and declared a temporary cease-fire to allow voter registration to proceed throughout the country; however, it urged a postponement of the elections, pending a peace settlement that would allow the movement to participate in the democratic process. However, delegates at the National Consultative Conference, which was convened by INEC in early February, voted in favour of adherence to the scheduled date. The RUF subsequently abandoned the cease-fire and launched a series of attacks in various parts of the country, in an apparent attempt to undermine the electoral process.

On 26 February 1996 presidential and legislative elections, which were contested by 13 political parties and were monitored by international observers, took place as scheduled. However, some 27 people were killed in attacks by armed groups, particularly in Bo and parts of Freetown, which were generally attributed to the RUF; voting was consequently extended for a further day. The reconstituted SLPP secured 36.1% of votes cast in the legislative elections, while its presidential candidate, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, also received most support, with 35.8% of votes. Seven of the political parties demanded that the results be annulled, owing to the disruption of the elections in several regions caused by the civil violence. A second round of the presidential election, which took place on 15 March, was contested by Kabbah and the candidate of the United National People's Party (UNPP), John Karefa-Smart (who had obtained 22.6% of votes cast in the first round): Kabbah was elected President by 59.5% of the votes. Later in March seats in the new 80-member Parliament were allocated on a basis of proportional representation, with the SLPP securing 27, the UNPP 17, the People's Democratic Party 12 and the reconstituted APC only five seats; the 12 provincial districts were represented in the legislature by Paramount Chiefs. Kabbah was inaugurated on 29 March, when the military Government officially relinquished

power to the new civilian administration. In April Kabbah appointed a new Cabinet, which was subsequently approved by the new Parliament.

Following the elections, the Government announced in March 1996 that the RUF had agreed to a cease-fire; at a meeting between Sankoh and Bio in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, later that month, the RUF undertook to observe the cease-fire for a period of two months and to continue negotiations with the newly elected civilian Government. Following discussions between Sankoh and Kabbah in April, the Government and RUF reaffirmed their commitment to a permanent cessation of hostilities, and announced the establishment of three joint committees, which would consider issues regarding the demobilization of rebel forces. However, Sankoh continued to refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the new Government, and demanded that a transitional administration be installed pending further elections. At continuing negotiations in May, agreement was reached on a number of issues, although the RUF demanded that the mercenaries be withdrawn from the country as a precondition to the demobilization of its forces. Despite the official cease-fire, sporadic attacks by the RUF were subsequently reported. Additional clashes occurred later that year between government forces and the Kamajors (traditional fighters reconstituted as an auxiliary defence force).

In July 1996 the Parliament adopted legislation that formally reinstated the Constitution of 1991. In September 1996 Kabbah ordered the compulsory retirement of some 20 officers, including Strasser and Bio, from the armed forces. Shortly afterwards it was reported that a conspiracy to overthrow the Government had been thwarted by senior military officers. About 17 members of the armed forces were arrested, of whom nine were subsequently charged with involvement in the conspiracy. Following reports of a further conspiracy to overthrow the Government in January 1997, Kabbah announced that an investigative mission from Nigeria had concluded that former members of the NPRC administration had instigated the coup attempt of September 1996.

In November 1996 Kabbah demanded that the RUF relinquish armaments within a period of two weeks, threatening that government forces would resume military operations. At the end of that month Kabbah and Sankoh signed a peace agreement in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, whereby RUF forces were to be demobilized and the movement was to be reconstituted as a political organization, while all foreign troops were to be withdrawn from the country and replaced with foreign observers. A National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace was subsequently established to monitor the peace settlement. By February 1997 all foreign mercenaries had left Sierra Leone in accordance with the agreement, while the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from Liberia had commenced. However, at the end of that month (when the implementation of the peace agreement was scheduled for completion) it was reported that members of the RUF had repeatedly violated the peace agreement and had failed to report to designated centres for disarmament. In March numbers of the political wing of the RUF issued a declaration that Sankoh had been removed as leader of the organization, owing to his failure to implement the peace accord. Later that month, however, RUF forces loyal to Sankoh kidnapped members of the movement who had supported his replacement, together with the Sierra Leonean ambassador to Guinea; the faction issued demands for the release of Sankoh, who had been detained in Nigeria earlier that month (being reportedly in possession of armaments).

On 25 May 1997 dissident members of the armed forces, led by Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma, seized power, deposing Kabbah, who fled to Guinea. Koroma claimed that the coup, which was condemned internationally, was in response to the Government's failure to implement the peace agreement with the RUF. (The coup leaders were believed to have connections with members of the NPRC administration, many of whom, it was reported, planned to return to Sierra Leone.) The Nigerian Government demanded that the junta relinquish power, and increased its military strength in Freetown to about 3,000 troops. The new authorities imposed a curfew in Freetown, following widespread violent looting by armed factions; most foreign nationals were evacuated. In early June Nigerian forces initiated a naval bombardment of Freetown in an effort to force the new military leaders to resign. However, forces loyal to the coup leaders, assisted by RUF members, succeeded in repelling Nigerian attacks. Koroma announced the establishment of a 20-member Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), with

himself as Chairman and Sankoh (who remained in detention in Nigeria) as Vice-Chairman; the AFRC (which was not internationally recognized as the legitimate Government) included a further three members of the RUF and several civilians. All political activity, the existing Constitution and government bodies were suspended, although Koroma pledged that democratic rule would be restored. Nigeria reiterated that it intended to reinstate the ousted Government with the support of ECOWAS, and a further two Nigerian warships were dispatched to the region; further clashes between Nigerian troops, who had been serving under the mandate of ECOMOG in neighbouring Liberia (q.v.), and supporters of the new military leaders occurred at the international airport at Lungi. In mid-June the AFRC announced that it had suppressed a coup attempt, following the arrest of 15 people, including several senior military officers. In the same month it was reported that troops supporting the junta had repulsed an attack by Kamajors (who remained loyal to Kabbah) at the town of Zimmi, 250 km south-east of Freetown. On 17 June Koroma was formally inaugurated as the self-proclaimed Head of State. However, despite appeals from Koroma, civilians continued to observe a campaign of civil disobedience, which had been organized by the labour congress in protest at the coup.

By early July 1997 the new military Government had been completely isolated by the international community. The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration (CMAG—which had been established to ensure adherence to the principles of democracy by member states) suspended Sierra Leone from meetings of the Commonwealth, pending the restoration of constitutional order and the reinstatement of a democratically elected government. The UN Security Council also condemned the coup, and expressed support for ECOWAS efforts to resolve the situation. Meanwhile, a four-member ministerial committee, comprising representatives of Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Ghana, which had been established by ECOWAS, urged the Government to relinquish power during a series of negotiations with an AFRC delegation.

In mid-July 1997 Koroma formed a cabinet, known as the Council of Secretaries, comprising representatives of the RUF and the army, together with a number of civilians. Later that month, following further reports of clashes between Kamajors and forces loyal to the junta in the south of the country, AFRC representatives and the ECOWAS committee, meeting in Abidjan, agreed to an immediate cease-fire; negotiations were to continue, with the aim of restoring constitutional order. However, Nigeria subsequently accused the AFRC of violating the cease-fire, while further clashes between the Kamajors and the AFRC forces were reported at Zimmi. Renewed skirmishes between Nigerian and AFRC troops also occurred at Lungi airport. At the end of July continuing discussions between the ECOWAS committee and AFRC representatives in Abidjan were abandoned, after Koroma insisted that he retain power for a tenure of four years, and refused to restore the Constitution and to end the ban on political activity. Consequently, in late August an ECOWAS conference, which was convened at Abuja, Nigeria, officially endorsed the imposition of sanctions against Sierra Leone, with the aim of obliging the AFRC to relinquish power; however, the conference rejected demands by Kabbah, which were supported by the Nigerian Government, for military intervention to reinstate his administration. ECOMOG was granted a mandate to monitor the cease-fire and to enforce the economic embargo; it was also agreed that the ECOWAS monitoring committee would henceforth include Liberia (following the election of a democratic Government in that country).

In September 1997 ECOMOG troops stationed at the airport at Lungi bombarded container vessels that were suspected of attempting to violate the sanctions, and staged aerial attacks against commercial and military targets in Freetown, killing about 50 civilians. In the same month CMAG voted in support of the decision of the ECOWAS committee to effect the reinstatement of the Kabbah administration. In early October the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on the import of armaments and petroleum products to Sierra Leone. Following further aerial bombardments of Freetown by ECOMOG troops (in which large numbers of civilians were killed), a mass demonstration was held in the capital to demand that the Nigerian Government withdraw its troops from Sierra Leone. Negotiations between the AFRC and the five-member committee continued, however, and later in October an agreement, which was signed in Conakry, Guinea, provided for an immediate cease-fire, and the reinstatement of Kabbah's Government by April 1998, together

with immunity from prosecution for AFRC members; all troops loyal to the incumbent military administration and RUF members were to be demobilized, under the supervision of a disarmament committee, comprising representatives of the AFRC, ECOMOG and local forces loyal to Kabbah. In November 1997 people, including a senior RUF official, were arrested in connection with an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the military junta. In January 1998 ECOMOG forces again bombarded the port at Freetown (for the first time since the peace agreement in October), apparently with the aim of preventing merchant vessels from contravening the sanctions. Meanwhile, later that month Kamajors gained control of the town of Tongofield (where principal reserves of diamonds were located), 240 km east of Freetown, and in early February were reported to have captured the town of Bo.

In early February 1998 further clashes erupted near Freetown between ECOMOG troops and supporters of the military junta. Nigerian troops belonging to ECOMOG subsequently launched an intensive bombardment against Freetown and succeeded in gaining control of the capital, after senior members of the AFRC, including Koroma, fled into hiding, or surrendered to the ECOMOG forces; some 100 civilians were killed in the fighting, while more than 3,000 took refuge in Guinea. About 50 members of the military junta were arrested at James Spriggs Payne Airport at Monrovia, Liberia, prompting protests from the Liberian Government regarding the Nigerian military intervention. It was announced that the Government that had been ousted on 25 May 1997 was to be reinstated, and that all subsequent appointments were to be considered invalid. ECOMOG forces were to remain in the country to assist in the restructuring of the armed forces. Meanwhile, following reports that troops loyal to the former military junta, with the assistance of the RUF, had recaptured Bo, ECOMOG forces were deployed in the region to support the Kamajors, and rapidly succeeded in regaining control of most of the region (prompting speculation that the Nigerian military initiative had been undertaken with the aim of gaining access to Sierra Leone's mineral resources).

On 10 March 1998 Kabbah returned from exile and was officially reinstated as President; he subsequently appointed a Cabinet (which included a number of members of his previous administration). The new Government declared a state of emergency under which members of the former military junta could be detained for a maximum of 30 days without being formally charged. It was announced that some 1,500 civilians and members of the armed forces (including Momoh) had been placed in detention and were to be charged for their alleged connections with the former military junta. Also in March the UN Security Council voted to end its embargo on imports of petroleum products to Sierra Leone (which had resulted in severe fuel shortages), although an embargo on the supply of armaments was maintained. It was reported that ECOMOG forces had launched an offensive in the east of the country, in an effort to eradicate the remaining forces loyal to the former military junta and members of the RUF. In July the UN Security Council adopted a resolution establishing a UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), comprising 70 military observers, with an initial six-month mandate to monitor the security situation, supervise the disarmament of former combatants, and advise the authorities on the restructuring of the security forces. In the same month it was announced that the national army had been dissolved; the establishment of a new, 5,000-member force was envisaged.

In late July 1998 the Nigerian Government returned Foday Sankoh (who had been in detention in Nigeria since early 1997) to Sierra Leone, where he was charged with treason following his support for the military coup of May 1997. In August 16 civilians, including five journalists, were sentenced to death, after being convicted of supporting the former military junta. In October 24 army officers were publicly executed, following their conviction for involvement with the military junta, provoking condemnation from many foreign Governments and human rights organizations, which had appealed for clemency. Death penalties imposed against a further 10 officers were commuted to terms of life imprisonment. In November a further 15 civilians, including several ministers who had served in the AFRC Government, were sentenced to death for their part in the May 1997 coup; Momoh received a custodial term of 10 years for colluding with the military junta.

Meanwhile, ECOMOG continued efforts to suppress rebel activity, particularly in the north and east of the country, and in

October 1998 transferred its operational headquarters from the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to Freetown. In that month the RUF intensified hostilities, after it was announced that Sankoh had been sentenced to death by the High Court on charges of treason. In November ECOMOG forces commenced aerial bombardments of rebel bases. By late December, however, RUF forces, together with supporters of the former military junta, had advanced towards Freetown, and had seized control of the principal town of Makeni, 140 km north-east of Freetown. The Governments of Nigeria and Ghana dispatched additional troops to reinforce the ECOMOG contingent (which henceforth numbered about 15,000). At the end of December the acting Commander of the RUF, Sam Bockarie, rejected a government invitation to enter into peace negotiations, and ECOMOG forces, supported by Kamajors, attempted to repulse rebel attacks in the outskirts of Freetown.

On 6 January 1999 rebel forces attacked Freetown (where thousands of civilians from the surrounding area had taken refuge), releasing a number of supporters of the former junta from the capital's prison and seizing the Nigerian High Commission and government offices; Kabbah and a number of cabinet ministers were obliged to flee to ECOMOG headquarters. (It was subsequently discovered that two ministers had been killed by the rebels.) Bockarie announced that Freetown was under the control of the RUF, and demanded that Sankoh be released from detention. However, he rejected a subsequent offer by Kabbah to release Sankoh on condition that the rebels comply with the November 1996 peace agreement. ECOMOG troops initiated a counter-offensive, with an aerial bombardment of Freetown, forcing the rebels to retreat to the outskirts of the capital. It was estimated that about 3,000 people had been killed during the RUF occupation of the capital, and further large numbers of civilians were maimed by the rebels. The rebel forces had taken hostage the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Joseph Ganda, and about 11 European priests and nuns; Ganda and five priests were rescued by ECOMOG troops, but it was subsequently reported that some of the nuns had been killed. By late January ECOMOG forces claimed to have regained control of Freetown, and a cease-fire was agreed, pending peace negotiations, which were convened in Conakry, with mediation by the Governments of Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. It was reported that Sankoh (who had been allowed by the Sierra Leonean authorities to attend the peace discussions) demanded his release and the official recognition of the RUF as a political movement as preconditions to the cessation of hostilities. Some 100 members of ECOMOG were arrested, following claims by a UN report (which were denied by ECOMOG) that suspected rebels had been summarily executed; the Kamajors were also implicated in summary killings. In late January the Government of Mali dispatched some 500 troops to join the ECOMOG contingent.

Following the rebel offensive in January 1999, a number of West African Governments, particularly those of Nigeria and Ghana, reiterated claims that the Liberian Government was supporting the RUF with mercenaries and illicit exports of armaments in exchange for diamonds. ECOMOG also accused Burkina Faso and Libya of assisting rebel operations. Charles Taylor (now the Liberian President) denied any connections with the RUF, dismissing the allegations as an attempt to destabilize his administration. In early 1999 the Nigerian Government announced that it intended to withdraw its forces from Sierra Leone prior to the transition to civilian rule in Nigeria, which was scheduled to take place at the end of May. In April, however, the Nigerian President-elect, Olusegun Obasanjo, announced that the Nigerian contingent (then numbering nearly 15,000) would remain in Sierra Leone until peace was restored, apparently in response to the influence of the international community; however, a gradual withdrawal of ECOMOG troops, to be completed by early 2000, was envisaged. Meanwhile, Kabbah authorized discussions between Sankoh and active RUF leaders to clarify RUF demands, and, following pressure from the Nigerian, US and British Governments, agreed to conduct formal peace negotiations with the rebels. In late April, following discussions between RUF leaders, formal negotiations between the RUF and a government delegation commenced in the Togolese capital, Lomé, with mediation by President Gnassingbé Eyadéma of Togo. In early May the Government and the RUF signed a cease-fire agreement, which came into effect later that month. Continuing negotiations on the proposed participation of the RUF in a coalition transitional administration, as part of a wider peace settlement, followed. In

early July the Government and the RUF reached a power-sharing agreement, after government negotiators acceded to rebel demands that Sankoh be granted vice-presidential powers, with responsibility for the mineral resources industry, and the RUF be allocated a number of cabinet posts. The accord provided for the release of civilians who had been abducted by the rebels, and the disarmament and reintegration into the armed forces of former combatants; the RUF was to be reconstituted as a political organization. Following the completion of disarmament, legislative and presidential elections were to take place by February 2001. The office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and human rights organizations objected to a general amnesty for perpetrators of human rights violations allowed under the provisions of the peace agreement. (Atrocities committed by the rebels against the civilian population, including mass amputations, had attracted international condemnation.)

In early August 1999 former supporters of the AFRC junta kidnapped some 32 members of ECOMOG and UNOMSIL who had been abducted by the rebels, after attempting to negotiate the release of about 200 civilians, held by the rebels. The dissidents issued demands for the extension of the amnesty to supporters of the former junta, and the release of Koroma, who, they believed, had been detained by the RUF. Koroma was transported by the UN to Monrovia, where he urged his supporters to free the hostages. Following negotiations between the Sierra Leonean authorities and the rebels, with the assistance of British mediators, the ECOMOG and UNOMSIL hostages were subsequently released.

In early October 1999 Sankoh (who had been conducting discussions with Taylor) and Koroma returned to Freetown from Monrovia, and pledged to co-operate with Kabbah in the implementation of the Lomé peace accord. Later that month the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1270, establishing a 6,000-member force, the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, see p. 74), which was granted a six-month mandate to supervise the implementation of the peace agreement, and to assist in a programme for the disarmament and reintegration of the former rebel factions; at the same time the mandate of UNOMSIL was terminated. The withdrawal of the ECOMOG contingent was to be completed following the deployment of UNAMSIL, although, in effect, the new peace-keeping force (which was to comprise 4,000 Nigerian troops and 2,000 principally Kenyan and Indian troops) would incorporate a number of the Nigerian forces belonging to ECOMOG. On 2 November a new coalition Cabinet was officially installed; four former members of the RUF and the AFRC junta were allocated ministerial posts (but failed to secure any principal portfolios). Sankoh became Chairman of a commission supervising the reconstruction of the mineral resources industry, with vice-presidential status, while Koroma was nominated Chairman of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace. In the same month the Government announced the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was to make recommendations regarding compensation for victims of human rights violations. However, reports of atrocities perpetrated against the civilian population by rebels continued, and in November division between the AFRC and RUF leadership emerged, apparently as a result of the former junta's dissatisfaction with its cabinet posts. Fighting between the former allied factions was reported in northern Sierra Leone, with RUF forces ousting Koroma's supporters from the town of Makeni. The arrival of UNAMSIL troops in Sierra Leone commenced at the end of November.

In early 2000 reports emerged of RUF forces in the Kailahun District of eastern Sierra Leone (where illegal diamond-mining continued) resisting disarmament and the deployment of UNAMSIL troops. In February the UN Security Council adopted a resolution in favour of expanding UNAMSIL to number 11,100, and extended its mandate for six months; further African states, including Zambia, Ghana and Guinea, were to contribute troops. In March Kabbah established a commission to supervise the elections, which, under the terms of the peace agreement, were to take place following the disarmament of the former rebel factions. By the end of that month, however, only about 17,000 of the 45,000 former combatants had been disarmed.

In April 2000 UNAMSIL troops stationed in the eastern town of Kenema repulsed attacks from rebel forces. In early May, following a further dispute over disarmament, RUF forces attacked UNAMSIL troops in Makeni and the neighbouring town of Magburaka, killing at least four Kenyan members of the

contingent, and seizing a number of UN personnel as hostages. Six civilian UN observers were subsequently released, following intervention by Taylor. However, rebel forces continued to hold about 300 members of UNAMSIL (principally Zambians) hostage at the towns of Makeni and Kailahun, while a further Zambian contingent of the peace-keeping force, numbering about 200, was reported missing (and was subsequently believed to have also been captured). The UN Secretary-General urged West African Heads of State to increase pressure on Sankoh to order the release of the hostages. Following a reported advance on Freetown by RUF forces, foreign nationals were advised to leave the country. The British Government dispatched a military task force to the region (stationing troops at the airport at Lungi, and in Senegal), which evacuated most European nationals. RUF supporters guarding Sankoh's residence in Freetown fired on civilian demonstrators, who were demanding that Sankoh comply with the peace agreement; some 20 protesters were killed. (UN officials were subsequently unable to contact Sankoh, who had fled from Freetown.) Sierra Leonean government forces, led by Koroma (who continued to support the Kabbah administration), were deployed to halt rebel advances, and claimed to have recaptured territory from the RUF. At an ECOWAS summit meeting in Abuja, Taylor was authorized to negotiate with the RUF regarding their release of the hostages; the redeployment of Nigerian troops under an ECOMOG mandate was considered. In late May Sankoh was arrested in Freetown by troops loyal to Kabbah. By the end of that month, following mediation by Taylor, the hostages held by the RUF were released. In early June, however, 21 Indian members of UNAMSIL were seized by the RUF at the eastern town of Pendembu, while a further 233 peace-keeping troops were surrounded by rebels at nearby Kailahun. By mid-June most of the British forces had withdrawn (with about 250 troops remaining in the country to train new members of the Sierra Leone armed forces, and to assist in establishing the operations of a British military advisory team).

In early July 2000 the UN Security Council adopted a resolution, proposed by the British Government, imposing an international embargo on the purchase of unauthenticated diamonds (in an effort to prevent illicit trade from RUF-held regions, thereby ending the rebels' principal source of funding for armaments); the Sierra Leonean Government was to implement a system whereby officially mined diamonds would be granted certification. In the same month government forces clashed with one of the most notorious militia groups, the West Side Boys (WSB), which had hitherto supported the former AFRC junta. In mid-July the battalion of (principally Indian) peace-keeping personnel, who had been besieged by the RUF at Kailahun, were rescued in a military operation by UNAMSIL; one member of the contingent was killed during the offensive. In early August the UN Security Council approved the establishment of an international tribunal, where Sankoh and others responsible for atrocities committed during the civil conflict would be placed on trial. The RUF leadership announced the nomination of Gen. Issa Sesay (who was reported to be a more moderate commander) to replace Sankoh. Later in August the WSB abducted 11 British military personnel and one member of the Sierra Leonean armed forces, subsequently issuing a number of demands as a precondition to releasing the hostages. Five of the British personnel were freed after negotiations, but additional British troops were dispatched to Sierra Leone, following the failure of government officials to secure an agreement on the remaining hostages. In early September about 150 British troops attacked the main WSB base, 48 km east of Freetown, and succeeded in rescuing the other seven hostages. One member of the British armed forces died during the military operation, while 25 members of the WSB were killed, and a further 18 (including the movement's leader, Foday Kallay) were captured.

In September 2000 the Indian Commander of UNAMSIL, Maj-Gen. Vijay Jetley, accused Nigeria of perpetuating the conflict in order to continue the illicit trade in diamonds in collusion with the RUF. The Nigerian authorities denied the allegations, and demanded Jetley's resignation. Later that month the Indian Government announced that it was to withdraw its contingent (then numbering 3,073 troops) from UNAMSIL, despite a proposal by the UN Secretary-General that the maximum strength of the peace-keeping force be increased. In October several nations, notably Bangladesh, Ghana and Kenya, pledged to dispatch additional troops to replace those of India. In early November the Kenyan Deputy Chief of Staff, Lieut-Gen. Daniel Opande, replaced Jetley as

Commander of UNAMSIL. The number of British troops in the country had been increased to 400, while a 500-member naval task force was deployed off Freetown to provide additional support to the UN peace-keeping operations. On 10 November, following further negotiations mediated by ECOWAS, the Government and the RUF signed a cease-fire agreement in Abuja, providing for the demobilization and disarmament of all militia forces, and the deployment of UNAMSIL throughout the country.

Meanwhile, civilians continued to flee from the country, and by August 2000 some 331,000 Sierra Leonean refugees were registered in Guinea. In September the Guinean President, Gen. Lansana Conté, claimed that Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees were supporting the activity of rebels attempting to overthrow his Government (see the chapter on Guinea), and ordered them to leave the country. Following clashes on Guinea's border with Liberia, tripartite discussions between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone commenced in October. In March 2001, however, Taylor expelled the ambassadors of Guinea and Sierra Leone from Liberia, on the stated grounds that they had been engaged in activity incompatible with their office. Kabbah retaliated by ordering the Liberian chargé d'affaires to leave the country, and announced the closure of the joint border with Liberia. As a result of the continued violence and the hostility of the Guinean authorities, large numbers of the refugees in Guinea began to return to Sierra Leone. (Diplomatic links between Liberia and Sierra Leone and Guinea were normalized in August, following a request to Taylor by ECOWAS Heads of State.)

In February 2001 the National Assembly unanimously approved a proposal by Kabbah that presidential and legislative elections, scheduled to take place in February and March, respectively, be postponed for six months, owing to the continued civil unrest in the country. Following the extension of the mandate of the Government, Kabbah reorganized the Cabinet in early March. At the end of that month the UN Security Council adopted a resolution increasing the strength of UNAMSIL (which then numbered 9,500) to 17,500 troops. Some 650 British troops were to remain in the country until the end of the year. In April UNAMSIL began to deploy troops in northern regions of the country, including the towns of Lunsar and Makeni, formerly held by the RUF. In early May, however, it was reported that the pro-Government Kamajor militia, now known as the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), had attacked RUF positions in eastern towns. UNAMSIL accused the CDF, which had advanced within RUF-held territory, of instigating the hostilities. In mid-May the RUF and CDF signed an agreement, providing for the immediate cessation of hostilities and resumption of disarmament for both forces. In June UNAMSIL and (British-trained) government forces regained control of part of the significant diamond-mining regions and the eastern border with Guinea and Sierra Leone (thereby forestalling renewed rebel activity originating from the neighbouring countries). Further clashes between the RUF and CDF continued to impede the disarmament process, and in mid-July discussions regarding the implementation of the peace agreement were conducted at Bo; the Government, the RUF and UNAMSIL agreed to a ban on diamond-mining in eastern regions still controlled by the rebels, in order to facilitate the demobilization of combatants.

In early September 2001 the Government announced that presidential and legislative elections would take place, under the aegis of the UN, on 14 May 2002 (after a further postponement, owing to the continued uncertainty of the security situation). A number of political prisoners, including senior RUF members, were released from detention. The RUF, however, protested at the delay and threatened to withdraw from the peace process unless an interim coalition administration replaced the incumbent Government. In response to the progress made in the peace process, the United Kingdom reduced its military presence in Sierra Leone, although some 335 British troops remained in the country to support UNAMSIL and to continue with the reorganization of the armed forces. In November representatives of the Government, the RUF and civil society agreed that parliamentary deputies in the forthcoming elections were to be elected by district (rather than under the previous system of proportional representation). Meanwhile, the Sierra Leonean authorities reacted with consternation to US media claims that the al-Qa'ida (Base) organization responsible for the terrorist attacks against the USA on 11 September had benefited from the purchase of illicitly mined diamonds from the RUF, in exchange for armaments. In December the UN Security

Council extended its ban on trade in uncertified diamonds for a further 11 months (effective from 5 January 2002).

In preparation for the forthcoming elections, a three-week process of voter registration commenced in mid-January 2002. The disarmament of an estimated 45,000 former combatants was officially completed on 18 January. Later that month the UN and the Government reached agreement on the establishment of a war crimes tribunal, to be known as the Special Court, which was to be based in Sierra Leone; the Special Court had a three-year mandate to prosecute crimes perpetrated from the end of November 1996. Meanwhile, the continuing rebel insurgency in northern Liberia, which had advanced rapidly towards Monrovia by early 2002, prompted concern that the resumption of civil conflict there would cause further instability in Sierra Leone. Despite UN pressure on the Liberian Government to end assistance for the RUF, it was reported that Bockarie, supported by 4,000 rebel forces, continued to be based in Liberia.

Following the completion of disarmament, the RUF announced its reconstitution as a political organization, the Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFFP), with the aim of contesting the elections. In early March 2002, however, Sankoh (who remained titular leader of the RUFFP) was formally charged with murder, in connection with the killing of some 20 civilian protesters by his supporters in May 2000. (The trial of Sankoh, together with a further 49 former RUF members, commenced later in March.) In mid-March Kabbah was elected unopposed as the presidential candidate of the SLPP. A total of 24 political parties had officially registered by this time, notably the Peace and Liberation Party (PLP), led by Koroma. However, after the collapse of an opposition alliance, which had been established in late 2001, no serious challenge to the SLPP had emerged. In early April, after the authorities announced that Sankoh would not be permitted to contest the elections on behalf of the RUFFP, the party's Secretary-General, Pallo Bangura, was nominated as its presidential candidate. By the end of that month an estimated 60,000 of the 150,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea and Liberia had returned voluntarily in order to participate in the elections (which were to be supervised by UNAMSIL).

Presidential and legislative elections took place peacefully on 14 May 2002. Kabbah was elected to a second term in office by 70.1% of the votes cast, while Ernest Bai Koroma of the APC received 22.4% of the votes. The SLPP also secured an outright majority in the expanded 124-member Parliament, with 83 seats, while the APC won 27 seats and the PLP two. Later that month Solomon Berewa (hitherto Minister of Justice) became the new Vice-President, and a reorganized Cabinet was installed.

In July 2002 the authorities announced that a seven-member Truth and Reconciliation Commission had been established. At the end of that month the British military presence in Sierra Leone was reduced to number some 100 officers, who were to continue the reorganization and training of the armed forces. In August Pallo Bangura resigned his RUFFP office, having secured less than 2% of votes cast in the presidential election. In September the UN Security Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of UNAMSIL for a further six months, but also advocating that the contingent be reduced in size. In December the UN embargo on illicit trade in diamonds was renewed for a further six months. In February 2003 a further 300 British troops were deployed in Sierra Leone, owing to concern that the intensification of hostilities between government and rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) forces in Liberia (see the chapter on Liberia) might destabilize the situation in Sierra Leone.

After the appointment of a British lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, as President of the Special Court and a US lawyer, David Crane, as Chief Prosecutor, trial activities commenced at the end of 2002. In March 2003 the Special Court approved indictments for war crimes against seven former faction leaders, notably Sankoh, Koroma, the former RUF Commanders, Bockarie and Sesay, and the incumbent Minister of the Interior (and Kamajor leader), Sam Hinga Norman. Five of those indicted, including Hinga Norman, were taken into custody. Koroma went into hiding, following an attempt by the authorities to arrest him, while it was reported that Bockarie was supporting Liberian government forces against the LURD. In April Hinga Norman pleaded not guilty at the Special Court to charges relating to atrocities perpetrated during the civil war. Public hearings before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission commenced in mid-April. In early May the Liberian authorities announced that Bockarie had been killed near the border with

Côte d'Ivoire, after clashing with Liberian troops attempting to arrest him, and ordered an investigation. Officials at the Special Court claimed that Bockarie and his immediate family had been captured and murdered by Liberian security forces, in an effort to prevent him from testifying against prominent regional figures. In June it was reported that Koroma had also been killed while at large in Liberia.

On 4 June 2003 the Special Court officially indicted Taylor for crimes against humanity, owing to his alleged long-standing support for the RUF, and an international warrant was issued for his arrest. The indictment against Taylor immediately precipitated a major offensive against the Liberian capital by rebels demanding his resignation (see the chapter on Liberia). The renewed humanitarian crisis in Liberia during June resulted in further large numbers of Liberian refugees fleeing to southern Sierra Leone. Having accepted an offer of asylum from the Nigerian Head of State, Olusegun Obasanjo, Taylor formally resigned his office and left for exile in Nigeria on 11 August, thereby evading arrest for the charges brought against him by the Special Court. Meanwhile, progress in the case against Sankoh was hindered by the deterioration of his state of health, and, after receiving medical treatment in hospital under UN custody from March, he finally died at the end of July. Also in July the UN Security Council adopted a resolution recommending the gradual withdrawal of UNAMSIL by the end of 2004, in view of improved security conditions.

In early February 2004 the five-year programme for 'disarmament, demobilization and reintegration' (in which 72,490 former combatants, including 6,845 children, had been disarmed) officially ended. In March Robertson was removed from the office of President of the Special Court, after being accused of demonstrating bias against the RUF in a book he had written concerning the atrocities committed during the civil conflict. At the end of that month, owing to concern that the Sierra Leone authorities would be unable to maintain stability, particularly in view of the security situations in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, the UN Security Council approved a resolution in favour of maintaining a reduced UNAMSIL contingent in the country until June 2005, with further extensions possible. UNAMSIL also assisted in subsequent preparations for local government elections, which had been postponed from late 2003 until May 2004.

The SLPP Government suffered a reverse in the local elections in May 2004, when, in what was widely regarded as a vote of protest against the continuing poor state of the economy and the authorities' failure to address corruption, the APC won majorities in the municipal councils of both Freetown and Makeni. In June the trial of Hinga Norman, and a further two prominent Kamajor leaders, commenced at the Special Court; proceedings against them were expected to be highly controversial, owing to the popular support retained by the Kamajors. In August Kabbah replaced the Minister of Justice in a government reorganization believed to be related to the SLPP's poor performance in the local government elections. On 23 September UNAMSIL officially transferred primary responsibility for security in the remaining parts of the country where it was deployed, including Freetown, to government forces. The UN Security Council approved a further resolution in the same month, authorizing the contingent's continued presence in the country until the end of June 2005 to assist in the maintenance of security. In December 2004 10 former army officers and rebel combatants were sentenced to death on charges of treason for involvement in an attempt to overthrow the Government in an attack on a barracks in January 2003; six of those convicted were former members of the AFRC and the remaining four were former RUF combatants.

Government

Under the terms of the Constitution of 1991, executive power is vested in the President, who is directly elected by universal adult suffrage. The President appoints the Cabinet (subject to approval by the legislature). The maximum duration of the President's tenure of office is limited to two five-year terms. Legislative power is vested in a unicameral Parliament, which is elected for a four-year term and comprises 112 members elected by a system of proportional representation, in 14 constituencies, and 12 Paramount Chiefs, who represent the provincial districts.

The country is divided into four regions: the Northern, Eastern and Southern Provinces, and the Western Area, which comprise 12 districts. There are 147 chiefdoms, each controlled

by a Paramount Chief and a Council of Elders, known as the Tribal Authority.

Defence

In August 2004 active members of the armed forces of the Republic of Sierra Leone numbered about 12,000–13,000, with a navy of 200. In October 1999 the UN Security Council adopted a resolution (No. 1270) establishing the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, see p. 74), which was to supervise the implementation of a peace agreement between the Government and rebel forces, signed in July of that year. Following the completion of disarmament in January 2002, a new army, restructured with British military assistance, was established. Some 100 British troops remained in the country to support peace-keeping operations and to continue reorganization of the Sierra Leone armed forces. At the end of February 2005 UNAMSIL numbered 3,622 total uniformed personnel (3,409 troops, 134 military observers and 79 civilian police), supported by 760 civilian personnel; the contingent had a maximum authorized strength of 17,500. Expenditure on defence in 2004 was budgeted at Le 37,793m. (equivalent to 4.6% of total expenditure).

Economic Affairs

In 2003, according to the World Bank, Sierra Leone's gross national income (GNI), measured at average 2001–03 prices, was US \$764m., equivalent to \$150 per head (or \$530 per head on an international purchasing-power parity basis). During 1990–2003, it was estimated, the population increased at an average annual rate of 2.2%, while gross domestic product (GDP) per head declined, in real terms, by an average of 4.4% per year. Overall GDP declined, in real terms, at an average annual rate of 2.2% in 1990–2003; however, growth was 6.3% in 2002 and 6.5% in 2003.

Agriculture (including forestry and fishing) contributed 52.5% of GDP in 2003. About 60.6% of the labour force were employed in the sector in that year. The principal cash crops are cocoa beans and coffee. Staple food crops include cassava, rice and bananas. Cattle, sheep and poultry are the principal livestock. During 1990–2003 the GDP of the agricultural sector declined at an average annual rate of 4.4%; however, growth in agricultural GDP was 6.7% in 2003.

Industry (including mining, manufacturing, construction and power) contributed 30.6% of GDP in 2003, and employed an estimated 17.1% of the labour force in 1996/97. The GDP of the industrial sector declined by an average of 2.9% per year in 1990–2003; however, industrial GDP increased by 8.5% in 2003.

Mining and quarrying contributed 17.5% of GDP in 1994/95. The principal mineral exports are diamonds (which, according to the Bank of Sierra Leone, accounted for 91.3% of total export earnings in 2003), rutile (titanium dioxide), bauxite and gold. The production of iron ore, previously an important mineral export, was suspended in 1985. In 1995 increased rebel activity effectively suspended official mining operations (although illicit exports of diamonds by rebel forces continued). In October 2000 official exports of diamonds were resumed under a certification scheme. Following reinvestment in a major kimberlite diamond field at Koidu, production commenced at the end of 2003. Sierra Rutile (the largest single private-sector employer and foreign-export earner prior to 1995) was expected to resume full mining operations in 2005, with international support, while negotiations on the terms of rehabilitating the country's bauxite mine were also under way at the end of 2004.

Manufacturing contributed 5.2% of GDP in 2003. The manufacturing sector consists mainly of the production of palm oil and other agro-based industries, textiles and furniture-making. During 1990–96 the GDP of the manufacturing sector increased at an average annual rate of 2.5%. Manufacturing GDP declined by 9.9% in 1995, but increased by 1.7% in 1996.

Energy is derived principally from oil-fired thermal power stations. With the electricity sector continuing to deteriorate, the Government planned to bring a delayed hydroelectric project at Bumbuna, in the north of the country, into operation by 2006. Imports of mineral fuels comprised 25.5% of the value of total imports in 2003.

The services sector contributed 16.9% of GDP in 2003, and employed 22.1% of the labour force in 1996/97. The GDP of the services sector declined by an average of 0.3% per year in 1990–2003, rising by 6.8% in 2003.

In 2003 Sierra Leone recorded an estimated trade deficit of US \$199.9m., and there was a deficit of \$80.0m. on the current account of the balance of payments. In 2003, according to official estimates, the principal source of imports (42.8%) was Germany;

other major suppliers were the United Kingdom and France. Belgium was the principal market for exports (taking 57.0% of the total); the other significant purchaser was Germany. The principal export in 2003 was diamonds. The principal imports in that year were mineral fuels, food and live animals, machinery and transport equipment, and basic manufactures.

The projected overall budget deficit for 2004 was Le 213,554m. Sierra Leone's external debt totalled US \$1,448m. at the end of 2002, of which \$1,262m. was long-term public debt. In 2001 the cost of debt-servicing was equivalent to 102.1% of the value of exports of goods and services. The annual rate of inflation averaged 16.1% in 1992–2003. Consumer prices declined by 3.3% in 2002, but increased by 7.6% in 2003 and by an estimated 12.0% in 2004. An estimated 50% of the labour force were unemployed in early 1990.

Sierra Leone is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (see p. 205) and of the Mano River Union (see p. 375), which aims to promote economic co-operation with Guinea and Liberia.

The civil conflict, which commenced in 1991, resulted in the progressive destruction of Sierra Leone's infrastructure, and severe disruption, or complete suspension, of traditional economic activities. Following a peace agreement between the Government and the rebels, which was signed in July 1999, a new coalition administration was installed, and a recovery and rehabilitation programme was adopted. Subsequent improvements in fiscal control and considerable post-conflict support from the international financial institutions resulted in some progress in reconstruction. Under a further cease-fire agreement, signed in November 2000 (see Recent History), presidential and legislative elections were conducted in May 2002. The reorganized Government's priorities were to alleviate widespread poverty, resettle displaced civilians (amounting to nearly one-half of the population at the end of 2001), reintegrate disarmed former combatants, reconstruct the country's infrastructure, and reduce dramatically high debt levels. In March 2002 the IMF, which had approved a further three-year credit arrangement in September 2001, commended the Government's progress in advancing the peace process and the country's improved economic and financial performance (demonstrated by significant GDP growth and continued restraint of the rate of inflation in 2001). In response to the implementation of structural reforms, the IMF and World Bank pledged debt relief to Sierra Leone under concessionary terms (conditional on the Government complying with the stipulated measures of fiscal control). The IMF approved further disbursements to Sierra Leone in September 2002 and April 2003, under the existing Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). The Fund advocated an accelerated implementation of structural reforms, including the privatization of state-owned enterprises, and measures to improve governance, and the legal and judicial systems (with the aim of encouraging private investment). A major peace agreement reached between the combatant factions in Liberia in August 2003 improved conditions for sustained peace in Sierra Leone, which were reinforced by the completion of the five-year disarmament programme in February 2004; nevertheless, continuing instability in neighbouring countries posed a continued threat to the security situation. Following a further performance review in early 2004, the IMF concluded that the country had made continued progress in economic stabilization and achieving growth under the PRGF-supported programme. Although the Government had failed to meet some fiscal and structural criteria, the Fund approved the disbursement of further credit and extended the arrangement to March 2005. Strong rates of growth were recorded from 2003 (albeit with a concomitant rise in inflation), while levels of state revenue from exports of officially registered diamonds increased sharply, following the reduction in illicit trade and improvement in the security situation. However, recovery in many sectors, particularly in agricultural output and other mining activities, since 2000 was regarded as slow. The Government had pledged to meet domestic food demands, through the increase of rice production and agricultural diversification, by 2007. The country remained heavily dependent on international aid, with, despite improved business confidence, private sector investment projects remaining problematic. A critical donor conference, at which Sierra Leone was expected to receive pledges of substantial assistance for the following three years, was to take place in Paris, France, in the first half of 2005. The IMF welcomed the decision by the UN Security Council for the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, see p. 74) to remain in the

country and support the Government in security maintenance until at least mid-2005.

Education

Primary education in Sierra Leone begins at six years of age and lasts for six years. Secondary education, beginning at the age of 12, lasts for a further six years, comprising two three-year cycles. In 2000/01 primary enrolment was equivalent to 92.8% of children in the relevant age-group (males 106.0%; females 79.8%), while about 26.5% of children in the relevant age-group were enrolled at secondary schools (males 29.0%; females 24.0%). There is one university, which comprises six colleges. A total of 8,795 students were enrolled in tertiary education in 2000/01. Following the onset of the civil conflict in 1991, large numbers of children were forced to join rebel militia, and to participate in atrocities. After peace was largely restored in July 1999, the reintegration of young former combatants into the community was a priority for the new administration. Education was allocated Le 30,700m. in the 2001 budget, increasing to a

projected Le 36,400m. (equivalent to 5.2% of total expenditure) in 2002.

Public Holidays

2005: 1 January (New Year's Day), 21 January* (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 25–28 March (Easter), 21 April* (Mouloud, Birth of the Prophet), 27 April (Independence Day), 4 November* (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 25–26 December (Christmas and Boxing Day).

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*These holidays are dependent on the Islamic lunar calendar and may vary by one or two days from the dates given.

Weights and Measures

The metric system is in force.

Statistical Survey

Source (unless otherwise stated): Central Statistics Office, PMB 595, Tower Hill, Freetown; tel. (22) 223287; fax (22) 223897; internet www.sierra-leone.org/cso.html and www.statistics-sierra-leone.org.

Area and Population

AREA, POPULATION AND DENSITY

Area (sq km)	71,740*
Population (census results)†	
8 December 1974	2,735,159
14 December 1985	
Males	1,746,055
Females	1,769,757
Total	3,515,812
Population (UN estimates at mid-year)‡	
2001	4,573,000
2002	4,764,000
2003	4,971,000
Density (per sq km) at mid-2003	69.3

* 27,699 sq miles.

† Excluding adjustment for underenumeration, estimated to have been 10% in 1974 and 9% in 1985. The adjusted total for 1974 (based on a provisional total of 2,729,479 enumerated) is 3,002,426.

‡ Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision*.

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

(population at 1985 census)

Freetown (capital)	384,499	Kenema	52,473
Koindu	82,474	Makeni	49,474
Bo	59,768		

Mid-2003 (UN estimate, including suburbs): Freetown 920,717 (Source: UN, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision*).

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

(UN estimates, annual averages)

	1985-90	1990-95	1995-2000
Birth rate (per 1,000)	49.2	49.6	49.7
Death rate (per 1,000)	27.8	29.6	28.9

Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision*.

Expectation of life (WHO estimates, years at birth): 34.0 (males 32.4; females 35.7) in 2002 (Source: WHO, *World Health Report*).

Agriculture

PRINCIPAL CROPS

('000 metric tons)

	2001	2002	2003
Rice (paddy)*	230	250	250
Maize	10†	12	10†
Millet	6*	11	10†
Sorghum	10*	19	10*
Sweet potatoes	25*	25	26*
Cassava (Manioc)	300*	340*	377
Sugar cane*	24	24	24
Pulses*	55	56	56
Groundnuts (in shell)*	16	16	16
Oil palm fruit*	180	180	180
Tomatoes*	14	14	14
Other vegetables*	200	205	205
Plantains*	30	30	30
Citrus fruit*	80	80	80
Other fruit*	62	64	64
Coffee (green)*	17	17	17
Cocoa beans*	11	11	11

* FAO estimate(s).

† Unofficial figure.

Source: FAO.

LIVESTOCK

(FAO estimates, unless otherwise indicated, '000 head, year ending September)

	2001	2002	2003
Cattle	400	400	400
Pigs	55	52*	52
Sheep	370	370	375
Goats	220	220	220
Chickens	7,000	7,000	7,500
Ducks	70	70	70

* Official figure.

Source: FAO.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

(FAO estimates, '000 metric tons)

	2000	2001	2002
Beef and veal	5.4	5.4	5.4
Poultry meat	9.1	10.6	10.5
Other meat	6.0	6.4	6.5
Cows' milk	21.3	21.3	21.3
Hen eggs	8.0	8.3	8.3

2003: Production as in 2002 (FAO estimates).

Source: FAO.

Forestry

ROUNDWOOD REMOVALS

(FAO estimates, '000 cubic metres, excl. bark)

	2001	2002	2003
Sawlogs, veneer logs and logs for sleepers*	4	4	4
Other industrial wood†	120	120	120
Fuel wood	5,364	5,374	5,387
Total	5,488	5,497	5,510

* Annual output assumed to be unchanged since 1993.

† Annual output assumed to be unchanged since 1980.

Source: FAO.

SAWNWOOD PRODUCTION

('000 cubic metres, incl. railway sleepers)

	1991	1992	1993
Total (all broadleaved)	9	9*	5

1994–2003: Annual production as in 1993 (FAO estimates).

* FAO estimate.

Source: FAO.

Fishing

('000 metric tons, live weight of capture)

	2000	2001	2002
West African ilisha	3.0	0.0	1.4
Tonguefishes	2.3	0.5	0.7
Bobo croaker	4.0	0.7	3.2
Sardinellas	7.6	9.8	13.3
Bonga shad	21.6	24.8	31.5
Tuna-like fishes	0.8	7.1	0.6
Marine molluscs	—	0.1	2.4
Total catch (incl. others)	74.7	75.2	83.0

Source: FAO.

Mining

(metric tons, unless otherwise indicated)

	2001	2002	2003
Gypsum*	4,000	4,000	4,000
Diamonds ('000 carats)	223	352	507
Salt	2,900	1,800	1,800*

* Estimate(s).

Source: US Geological Survey.

Industry

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

(estimates, '000 metric tons)

	1998	1999	2000
Jet fuels	17	17	17
Motor spirit (petrol)	29	29	30
Kerosene	8	9	9
Distillate fuel oils	70	72	72
Residual fuel oils	54	55	55

Source: UN, *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook*.

SELECTED OTHER PRODUCTS

('000 metric tons, unless otherwise indicated)

	2003	2004
Beer and stout ('000 cartons)	771	809
Malt drink ('000 cartons)	172	133
Soft drinks ('000 crates)	1,171	1,582
Confectionery ('000 lbs)	3,319	2,734
Soap (metric tons)	491	268
Paint ('000 gallons)	181	165
Cement	170	180
Plastic footwear ('000 pairs)	731	86
Flour	n.a.	19.1
Electric energy (million kWh)	109.4	84.8

Source: Bank of Sierra Leone, *Annual Report*.

country and support the Government in security maintenance until at least mid-2005.

Education

Primary education in Sierra Leone begins at six years of age and lasts for six years. Secondary education, beginning at the age of 12, lasts for a further six years, comprising two three-year cycles. In 2000/01 primary enrolment was equivalent to 92.8% of children in the relevant age-group (males 106.0%; females 79.8%), while about 26.5% of children in the relevant age-group were enrolled at secondary schools (males 29.0%; females 24.0%). There is one university, which comprises six colleges. A total of 8,795 students were enrolled in tertiary education in 2000/01. Following the onset of the civil conflict in 1991, large numbers of children were forced to join rebel militia, and to participate in atrocities. After peace was largely restored in July 1999, the reintegration of young former combatants into the community was a priority for the new administration. Education was allocated Le 30,700m. in the 2001 budget, increasing to a

projected Le 36,400m. (equivalent to 5.2% of total expenditure) in 2002.

Public Holidays

2005: 1 January (New Year's Day), 21 January* (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 25–28 March (Easter), 21 April* (Mouloud, Birth of the Prophet), 27 April (Independence Day), 4 November* (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 25–26 December (Christmas and Boxing Day).

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† Excluding adjustment for underenumeration, estimated to have been 10% in 1974 and 9% in 1985. The adjusted total for 1974 (based on a provisional total of 2,729,479 enumerated) is 3,002,426.

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(population at 1985 census)

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Source: UN, *World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision*.

Expectation of life (WHO estimates, years at birth): 34.0 (males 32.4; females 35.7) in 2002 (Source: WHO, *World Health Report*).

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

(% of labour force)

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Agriculture, etc.	61.08	60.96	60.83
Industry	16.99	17.04	17.10
Services	21.93	22.00	22.07

Mid-2002 (estimates in '000): Agriculture, etc. 1,119; Total 1,847 (Source: FAO).

Health and Welfare

KEY INDICATORS

Total fertility rate (children per woman, 2002)	6.5
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2003)	284
HIV/AIDS (% of persons aged 15–49, 2001)	7.00
Physicians (per 1,000 head, 1996)	0.07
Health expenditure (2001): US \$ per head (PPP)	26
Health expenditure (2001): % of GDP	4.3
Health expenditure (2001): public (% of total)	61.0
Access to water (% of persons, 2002)	57
Access to sanitation (% of persons, 2002)	39
Human Development Index (2002): ranking	177
Human Development Index (2002): value	0.273

For sources and definitions, see explanatory note on p. vi.

Agriculture

PRINCIPAL CROPS

('000 metric tons)

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Diamonds ('000 carats)	223	352	507
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Cement	170	180
Plastic footwear ('000 pairs)	731	86
Flour	n.a.	19.1
Electric energy (million kWh)	109.4	84.8

Source: Bank of Sierra Leone, *Annual Report*.

Finance

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATES

Monetary Units

100 cents = 1 leone (Le).

Sterling, Dollar and Euro Equivalents (31 December 2004)

£1 sterling = 5,524.8 leones;

US \$1 = 2,860.5 leones;

€1 = 3,896.3 leones;

10,000 leones = £1.81 = \$3.50 = €2.57.

Average Exchange Rate (leones per US \$)

2002 2,099.03

2003 2,347.94

2004 2,701.30

BUDGET

(Le million)

Revenue*	2002	2003	2004†
Income tax department	62,881	75,581	94,775
Customs and excise department	160,589	192,379	220,150
Mines department	2,034	3,040	6,662
Other departments	6,262	6,811	11,413
Road user charges	6,925	9,847	15,083
Total	238,691	287,657	348,083
Expenditure‡	2002	2003	2004†
Recurrent expenditure	474,811	509,760	567,802
Wages and salaries	142,769	160,092	173,825
Goods and services	154,606	192,389	187,929
Security-related expenditures	51,446	63,091	60,089
Defence	33,371	40,774	37,793
Democratization and DDR§	33,736	9,512	9,065
Grants to educational institutions	14,041	19,000	21,093
Transfers to road fund	6,925	9,847	15,083
Socially oriented outlays	—	3,007	844
Elections	17,937	750	6,586
Interest payments	104,797	115,163	153,377
Development expenditure	85,768	112,315	254,333
Subsidies	450	500	—
Total	561,029	622,575	822,135

* Excluding grants received (Le million): 161,336 in 2002; 179,344 in 2003; 260,440 in 2004 (forecast).

† Forecasts.

‡ Excluding lending minus repayments (Le million): 1,223 in 2002; -183 in 2003; -58 in 2004 (forecast).

§ Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Source: IMF, *Sierra Leone: 2004 Article IV Consultation, the Fifth Review Under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, and Requests for Waiver of Performance Criteria and Extension of Arrangement—Staff Report; Staff Statement; Public Information Notice and Press Release on the Executive Board Discussion; and Statement by the Executive Director for Sierra Leone* (January 2005).

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES

(US \$ million at 31 December)

	2002	2003	2004
IMF special drawing rights	24.0	34.5	51.0
Foreign exchange	60.6	32.1	74.1
Total	84.7	66.6	125.1

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

MONEY SUPPLY

(Le million at 31 December)

	2001	2002	2003
Currency outside banks	116,153	148,015	188,448
Demand deposits at commercial banks	67,452	90,808	94,415
Total money (incl. others)	189,437	247,478	292,950

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

COST OF LIVING

(Consumer Price Index for Freetown; base: 2000 = 100)

	2001	2002	2003
Food	105.2	104.4	112.2
All items (incl. others)	102.2	98.8	106.3

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

(Le million at current prices)

National Income and Product

(year ending 30 June)

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95*
Compensation of employees	86,503.1	107,650.3	138,658.6
Operating surplus	313,873.8	352,605.6	467,380.1
Domestic factor incomes	400,376.9	460,255.8	606,038.7
Consumption of fixed capital	30,097.2	35,104.2	41,907.3
Gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost	430,474.1	495,360.0	647,946.1
Indirect taxes, less subsidies	36,713.4	48,351.0	62,443.2
GDP in purchasers' values	467,187.5	543,711.0	710,389.3
Factor income received from abroad	-66,914.8	-70,237.5	-84,216.0
Less Factor income paid abroad			
Gross national product (GNP)	400,272.7	473,473.5	626,173.3
Less Consumption of fixed capital	30,097.2	35,104.2	41,907.3
National income in market prices	370,175.5	438,369.3	584,265.9
Other current transfers received from abroad	11,483.0	12,438.6	15,067.8
Less Other current transfers paid abroad			
National disposable income	381,658.5	450,807.9	599,333.7

* Provisional figures.

Expenditure on the Gross Domestic Product

	2001	2002	2003
Government final consumption expenditure	255,265	325,223	353,541
Private final consumption expenditure	1,398,461	1,528,299	1,713,929
Gross fixed capital formation	90,091	114,690	322,945
Total domestic expenditure	1,743,817	1,968,212	2,390,415
Exports of goods and services	228,694	293,879	323,534
Less Imports of goods and services	484,986	618,709	850,982
Statistical discrepancy	199	15,347	-10,490
GDP in purchasers' values	1,487,724	1,658,729	1,852,477
GDP at constant 1989/90 prices	64,999	69,267	74,090

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity

(year ending 30 June)

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95*
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	162,194.6	188,884.1	275,327.5
Mining and quarrying	98,615.8	96,748.8	119,229.2
Manufacturing	39,567.0	47,816.7	61,475.3
Electricity, gas and water	469.8	757.3	2,816.8
Construction	4,655.4	12,544.4	15,788.2
Trade, restaurants and hotels	69,139.9	77,251.0	98,270.1
Transport, storage and communications	37,056.5	50,047.1	61,267.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	15,947.0	17,988.0	14,732.2
Government services	14,500.0	17,884.0	19,844.9
Other community, social and personal services	8,998.3	9,769.0	12,308.9
Sub-total	451,144.3	519,690.4	681,060.6
Import duties	18,994.0	27,410.0	32,942.0
Less Imputed bank service charge	2,950.8	3,389.8	3,612.3
GDP in purchasers' values	467,187.5	543,711.0	710,389.3

* Provisional figures.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

(US \$ million)

	2001	2002	2003
Exports of goods f.o.b.	29.2	59.8	110.8
Imports of goods f.o.b.	-165.1	-254.9	-310.7
Trade balance	-136.0	-195.1	-199.9
Exports of services	52.0	38.3	66.1
Imports of services	-110.9	-80.8	-93.8
Balance on goods and services	-194.9	-237.5	-227.6
Other income received	4.3	18.3	1.7
Other income paid	-14.8	-21.1	-16.7
Balance on goods, services and income	-205.4	-240.4	-242.6
Current transfers received	120.7	170.8	167.6
Current transfers paid	-13.2	-3.6	-5.0
Current balance	-97.9	-73.2	-80.0
Capital account (net)	0.2	50.6	71.0
Direct investment from abroad	9.8	1.6	3.1
Other investment assets	-3.5	8.1	0.5
Other investment liabilities	23.7	0.2	24.4
Net errors and omissions	97.2	-7.4	-47.6
Overall balance	29.6	-20.1	-28.6

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

External Trade

PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES

(US \$ '000)

	2001	2002	2003
Imports c.i.f.			
Food and live animals	51,917.0	70,783.2	74,649.5
Beverages and tobacco	4,868.7	11,320.0	11,046.5
Crude materials (inedible) except fuels	5,754.5	9,212.1	6,893.7
Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc.	43,334.8	51,728.9	78,225.7
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	1,601.2	2,826.6	2,292.4
Chemicals	8,478.6	18,302.7	19,529.6
Basic manufactures	21,500.8	35,900.5	42,281.3
Machinery and transport equipment	37,239.9	50,216.8	58,617.4
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	8,923.7	13,986.2	13,203.6
Total	183,619.2	264,277.0	306,739.7

Exports f.o.b.	2001	2002	2003
Coffee	22.9	272.1	40.1
Cocoa beans	265.9	1,218.7	2,572.8
Diamonds	26,273.3	41,732.2	76,665.9
Total (incl. others)	28,326.8	46,361.6	83,954.2

Source: Bank of Sierra Leone.

PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS

(Le million)

Imports	1999	2000
Belgium	7,435	11,992
China, People's Repub.	8,614	22,323
Côte d'Ivoire	28,380	61,890
France	n.a.	5,909
Germany	5,412	11,475
India	8,903	7,559
Japan	3,612	7,076
Netherlands	9,632	13,184
Senegal	3,445	10,259
Switzerland	2,022	14,170
United Kingdom	10,008	17,958
USA	8,650	27,058
Total (incl. others)	137,430	282,975

Exports	1992	1993	1994
Belgium	25,770	54	11,412
Germany	1,060	2,486	1,328
Guinea	1,315	817	1,331
Netherlands	5,307	1,201	2,815
Switzerland	7,546	486	215
United Kingdom	5,567	5,988	11,767
USA	13,832	17,564	30,431
Total (incl. others)	75,034	67,077	67,930

Transport

ROAD TRAFFIC

(motor vehicles in use at 31 December)

	2000	2001	2002
Passenger cars	2,045	2,263	11,353
Buses and coaches	2,597	3,516	4,050
Goods vehicles	2,309	2,898	3,565
Motorcycles	1,398	1,532	1,657

Source: IRF, *World Road Statistics*.

SHIPPING

Merchant Fleet

(registered at 31 December)

	2001	2002	2003
Number of vessels	41	43	45
Displacement (gross registered tons)	13,148	22,733	23,157

Source: Lloyd's Register-Fairplay, *World Fleet Statistics*.

International Sea-borne Freight Traffic

(estimates, '000 metric tons)

	1991	1992	1993
Goods loaded	1,930	2,190	2,310
Goods unloaded	562	579	589

Source: UN Economic Commission for Africa, *African Statistical Yearbook*.

Finance

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATES

Monetary Units

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Sterling, Dollar and Euro Equivalents (31 December 2004)

£1 sterling = 5,524.8 leones;

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Average Exchange Rate (leones per US \$)

2002	2,099.03
2003	2,347.94
2004	2,701.30

BUDGET

(Le million)

Revenue*	2002	2003	2004†
Income tax department	62,881	75,581	94,775
Customs and excise department	160,589	192,379	220,150
Mines department	2,034	3,040	6,662
Other departments	6,262	6,811	11,413
Road user charges	6,925	9,847	15,083
Total	238,691	287,657	348,083
Expenditure‡	2002	2003	2004†
Recurrent expenditure	474,811	509,760	567,802
Wages and salaries	142,769	160,092	173,825
Goods and services	154,606	192,389	187,929
Security-related expenditures	51,446	63,091	60,089
Defence	33,371	40,774	37,793
Democratization and DDR§	33,736	9,512	9,065
Grants to educational institutions	14,041	19,000	21,093
Transfers to road fund	6,925	9,847	15,083
Socially oriented outlays	—	3,007	844
Elections	17,937	750	6,586
Interest payments	104,797	115,163	153,377
Development expenditure	85,768	112,315	254,333
Subsidies	450	500	—
Total	561,029	622,575	822,135

* Excluding grants received (Le million): 161,336 in 2002; 179,344 in 2003; 260,440 in 2004 (forecast).

† Forecasts.

‡ Excluding lending minus repayments (Le million): 1,223 in 2002; -183 in 2003; -58 in 2004 (forecast).

§ Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Source: IMF, *Sierra Leone: 2004 Article IV Consultation, the Fifth Review Under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, and Requests for Waiver of Performance Criteria and Extension of Arrangement-Staff Report; Staff Statement; Public Information Notice and Press Release on the Executive Board Discussion; and Statement by the Executive Director for Sierra Leone* (January 2005).

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES

(US \$ million at 31 December)

	2002	2003	2004
IMF special drawing rights	24.0	34.5	51.0
Foreign exchange	60.6	32.1	74.1
Total	84.7	66.6	125.1

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

MONEY SUPPLY

(Le million at 31 December)

	2001	2002	2003
Currency outside banks	116,153	148,015	188,448
Demand deposits at commercial banks	67,452	90,808	94,415
Total money (incl. others)	189,437	247,478	292,950

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

COST OF LIVING

(Consumer Price Index for Freetown; base: 2000 = 100)

	2001	2002	2003
Food	105.2	104.4	112.2
All items (incl. others)	102.2	98.8	106.3

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

(Le million at current prices)

National Income and Product

(year ending 30 June)

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95*
Compensation of employees	86,503.1	107,650.3	138,658.6
Operating surplus	313,873.8	352,605.6	467,380.1
Domestic factor incomes	400,376.9	460,255.8	606,038.7
Consumption of fixed capital	30,097.2	35,104.2	41,907.3
Gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost	430,474.1	495,360.0	647,946.1
Indirect taxes, less subsidies	36,713.4	48,351.0	62,443.2
GDP in purchasers' values	467,187.5	543,711.0	710,389.3
Factor income received from abroad	-66,914.8	-70,237.5	-84,216.0
Less Factor income paid abroad			
Gross national product (GNP)	400,272.7	473,473.5	626,173.3
Less Consumption of fixed capital	30,097.2	35,104.2	41,907.3
National income in market prices	370,175.5	438,369.3	584,265.9
Other current transfers received from abroad	11,483.0	12,438.6	15,067.8
Less Other current transfers paid abroad			
National disposable income	381,658.5	450,807.9	599,333.7

* Provisional figures.

Expenditure on the Gross Domestic Product

	2001	2002	2003
Government final consumption expenditure	255,265	325,223	353,541
Private final consumption expenditure	1,398,461	1,528,299	1,713,929
Gross fixed capital formation	90,091	114,690	322,945
Total domestic expenditure	1,743,817	1,968,212	2,390,415
Exports of goods and services	228,694	293,879	323,534
Less Imports of goods and services	484,986	618,709	850,982
Statistical discrepancy	199	15,347	-10,490
GDP in purchasers' values	1,487,724	1,658,729	1,852,477
GDP at constant 1989/90 prices	64,999	69,267	74,090

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity
(year ending 30 June)

	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95*
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	162,194.6	188,884.1	275,327.5
Mining and quarrying	98,615.8	96,748.8	119,229.2
Manufacturing	39,567.0	47,816.7	61,475.3
Electricity, gas and water	469.8	757.3	2,816.8
Construction	4,655.4	12,544.4	15,788.2
Trade, restaurants and hotels	69,139.9	77,251.0	98,270.1
Transport, storage and communications	37,056.5	50,047.1	61,267.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	15,947.0	17,988.0	14,732.2
Government services	14,500.0	17,884.0	19,844.9
Other community, social and personal services	8,998.3	9,769.0	12,308.9
Sub-total	451,144.3	519,690.4	681,060.6
Import duties	18,994.0	27,410.0	32,942.0
Less Imputed bank service charge	2,950.8	3,389.8	3,612.3
GDP in purchasers' values	467,187.5	543,711.0	710,389.3

* Provisional figures.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

(US \$ million)

	2001	2002	2003
Exports of goods f.o.b.	29.2	59.8	110.8
Imports of goods f.o.b.	-165.1	-254.9	-310.7
Trade balance	-136.0	-195.1	-199.9
Exports of services	52.0	38.3	66.1
Imports of services	-110.9	-80.8	-93.8
Balance on goods and services	-194.9	-237.5	-227.6
Other income received	4.3	18.3	1.7
Other income paid	-14.8	-21.1	-16.7
Balance on goods, services and income	-205.4	-240.4	-242.6
Current transfers received	120.7	170.8	167.6
Current transfers paid	-13.2	-3.6	-5.0
Current balance	-97.9	-73.2	-80.0
Capital account (net)	0.2	50.6	71.0
Direct investment from abroad	9.8	1.6	3.1
Other investment assets	-3.5	8.1	0.5
Other investment liabilities	23.7	0.2	24.4
Net errors and omissions	97.2	-7.4	-47.6
Overall balance	29.6	-20.1	-28.6

Source: IMF, *International Financial Statistics*.

External Trade

PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES

(US \$ '000)

Imports c.i.f.	2001	2002	2003
Food and live animals	51,917.0	70,783.2	74,649.5
Beverages and tobacco	4,868.7	11,320.0	11,046.5
Crude materials (inedible) except fuels	5,754.5	9,212.1	6,893.7
Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc.	43,334.8	51,728.9	78,225.7
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	1,601.2	2,826.6	2,292.4
Chemicals	8,478.6	18,302.7	19,529.6
Basic manufactures	21,500.8	35,900.5	42,281.3
Machinery and transport equipment	37,239.9	50,216.8	58,617.4
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	8,923.7	13,986.2	13,203.6
Total	183,619.2	264,277.0	306,739.7

Exports f.o.b.	2001	2002	2003
Coffee	22.9	272.1	40.1
Cocoa beans	265.9	1,218.7	2,572.8
Diamonds	26,273.3	41,732.2	76,665.9
Total (incl. others)	28,326.8	46,361.6	83,954.2

Source: Bank of Sierra Leone.

PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS

(Le million)

Imports	1999	2000
Belgium	7,435	11,992
China, People's Repub.	8,614	22,323
Côte d'Ivoire	28,380	61,890
France	n.a.	5,909
Germany	5,412	11,475
India	8,903	7,559
Japan	3,612	7,076
Netherlands	9,632	13,184
Senegal	3,445	10,259
Switzerland	2,022	14,170
United Kingdom	10,008	17,958
USA	8,650	27,058
Total (incl. others)	137,430	282,975

Exports	1992	1993	1994
Belgium	25,770	54	11,412
Germany	1,060	2,486	1,328
Guinea	1,315	817	1,331
Netherlands	5,307	1,201	2,815
Switzerland	7,546	486	215
United Kingdom	5,567	5,988	11,767
USA	13,832	17,564	30,431
Total (incl. others)	75,034	67,077	67,930

Transport

ROAD TRAFFIC

(motor vehicles in use at 31 December)

	2000	2001	2002
Passenger cars	2,045	2,263	11,353
Buses and coaches	2,597	3,516	4,050
Goods vehicles	2,309	2,898	3,565
Motorcycles	1,398	1,532	1,657

Source: IRF, *World Road Statistics*.

SHIPPING

Merchant Fleet

(registered at 31 December)

	2001	2002	2003
Number of vessels	41	43	45
Displacement (gross registered tons)	13,148	22,733	23,157

Source: Lloyd's Register-Fairplay, *World Fleet Statistics*.

International Sea-borne Freight Traffic

(estimates, '000 metric tons)

	1991	1992	1993
Goods loaded	1,930	2,190	2,310
Goods unloaded	562	579	589

Source: UN Economic Commission for Africa, *African Statistical Yearbook*.

CIVIL AVIATION
(traffic on scheduled services)

	1999	2000	2001
Passengers carried ('000)	19	19	14
Passenger-km (million)	30	93	73
Total ton-km (million)	3	18	13

Source: UN, *Statistical Yearbook*.

Tourism

	2000	2001	2002
Tourist arrivals	15,713	24,067	28,463
Tourism receipts (US \$ million)	12	n.a.	n.a.

Source: World Tourism Organization, mainly *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*.

Directory

The Constitution

Following the transfer of power to a democratically elected civilian administration on 29 March 1996, the Constitution of 1991 (which had been suspended since April 1992) was reinstated. The Constitution provided for the establishment of a multi-party system, and vested executive power in the President, who was to be elected by the majority of votes cast nationally and by at least 25% of the votes cast in each of the four provinces. The maximum duration of the President's tenure of office was limited to two five-year terms. The President was to appoint the Cabinet, subject to approval by the Parliament. The Parliament was elected for a four-year term and comprised 124 members, 112 of whom were elected by a system of proportional representation, in 14 constituencies, while 12 Paramount Chiefs also represented the provincial districts in the legislature. Members of the Parliament were not permitted concurrently to hold office in the Cabinet.

The Government

HEAD OF STATE

President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces: Alhaji AHMED TEJAN KABBAH (took office 29 March 1996; reinstated 10 March 1998; re-elected 14 May 2002).

Vice-President: SOLOMON BEREWA.

CABINET
(April 2005)

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation: MOMODU KOROMA.

Minister of Finance: JOSEPH B. DAUDA.

Minister of Development and Economic Planning: MOHAMED B. DARAMY.

Minister of Trade and Industry: Dr KADI SESAY.

Minister of Transport and Communications: Dr PRINCE A. HARDING.

Minister of Marine Resources: OKERE ADAMS.

Communications Media

	2000	2001	2002
Television receivers ('000 in use)	64	65	n.a.
Telephones ('000 main lines in use)	19.0	22.7	24.0
Mobile cellular telephones ('000 subscribers)	11.9	26.9	67.0
Internet users ('000)	5	7	8

Radio receivers ('000 in use): 1,120 in 1997.

Facsimile machines (number in use, year beginning 1 April): 2,500 in 1998.

Daily newspapers: 1 (average circulation 20,000) in 1996.

Sources: UNESCO, *Statistical Yearbook*; UN, *Statistical Yearbook*; and International Telecommunication Union.

Education

(2001/02)

	Schools	Teachers	Number of pupils		
			Males	Females	Total
Primary	2,704	14,932	323,924	230,384	554,308
Secondary	246	5,264	66,745	41,031	107,776
University*	n.a.	n.a.	1,163	300	1,463

* Full-time undergraduate students in 1995.

Adult literacy rate (UNESCO estimates): 36.0% in 2000 (Source: UN Development Programme, *Human Development Report*).

Minister of Health and Sanitation: ABATOR THOMAS.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology: Dr ALPHA T. WURIE.

Minister of Mineral Resources: Alhaji MOHAMED SWARRAY DEEN.

Minister of Local Government and Community Development: SIDIKE BRIMA.

Minister of Tourism and Culture: CHERNOH JALLOH.

Minister of Lands, Housing, Country Planning, Forestry and the Environment: Dr ALFRED BOBSON SESAY.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting: Prof. SEPTIMUS KAIKAI.

Minister of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance: Dr CAISER J. BOIMA.

Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, and Social Security: ALPHA O. TIMBO.

Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs: SHIRLEY GBUJAMA.

Minister of Justice and Attorney-General: FRANCIS M. CAREW.

Minister of Internal Affairs: GEORGE BANDA THOMAS.

Minister of Youth and Sports: Dr DENNIS BRIGHT.

Minister of Energy and Power: EMMANUEL O. GRANT.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security: Dr SAMA S. MONDEH.

Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs: EYA MBAYO.

Minister of State of Presidential Affairs: Dr SHEKOU SESAY.

Minister of the Northern Region: ALEX ALIE KARGBO.

Minister of the Southern Region: Dr S. U. M. JAH.

Minister of the Eastern Region: SAHR RANDOLPH FILLIE-FABOE.

MINISTRIES

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security: Youyi Bldg, Freetown; tel. (22) 222242; fax (22) 241613.

Ministry of Defence: State Ave, Freetown; tel. (22) 227369; fax (22) 229380.

Ministry of Development and Economic Planning: Youyi Bldg, Freetown; tel. (22) 225236; fax (22) 241599.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 240881; fax (22) 240137.

Ministry of Energy and Power: Electricity House, Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 226566; fax (22) 228199.

Ministry of Finance: Secretariat Bldg, George St, Freetown; tel. (22) 225612; fax (2) 228472.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation: Gloucester St, Freetown; tel. (22) 223260; fax (22) 225615; e-mail mfaicsl@yahoo.com.

Ministry of Health and Sanitation: Youyi Bldg, 4th Floor, Brookfields, Freetown; tel. (22) 240427; fax (22) 241613.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting: Youyi Bldg, 8th Floor, Brookfields, Freetown; tel. (22) 240339; fax (22) 241757.

Ministry of Internal Affairs: Liverpool St, Freetown; tel. (22) 226979; fax (22) 227727.

Ministry of Justice: Guma Bldg, Lamina Sankoh St, Freetown; tel. (22) 227444; fax (22) 229366.

Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, and Social Security: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 241947.

Ministry of Lands, Housing, Country Planning, Forestry and the Environment: Youyi Bldg, 4th Floor, Brookfields, Freetown; tel. (22) 242013.

Ministry of Local Government and Community Development: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 226589; fax (22) 222409.

Ministry of Marine Resources: Freetown.

Ministry of Mineral Resources: Youyi Bldg, 5th Floor, Brookfields, Freetown; tel. (22) 240142; fax (22) 241757.

Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs: State House, State Ave, Freetown; tel. (22) 228698; fax (22) 222781.

Ministry of Presidential Affairs: State House, State Ave, Freetown; tel. (22) 229728; fax (22) 229799.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 241256; fax (22) 242076.

Ministry of Trade and Industry: Ministerial Bldg, George St, Freetown; tel. (22) 225211.

Ministry of Transport and Communications: Ministerial Bldg, George St, Freetown; tel. (22) 221245; fax (22) 227337.

Ministry of Tourism and Culture: Ministerial Bldg, George St, Freetown; tel. (22) 222588.

Ministry of Works, Housing and Technical Maintenance: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 240937; fax (22) 240018.

Ministry of Youth and Sports: Freetown.

President and Legislature

PRESIDENT

Presidential Election, 14 May 2002

Candidate	% of votes
Ahmed Tejan Kabbah (SLPP)	70.06
Ernest Bai Koroma (APC)	22.35
Johnny Paul Koroma (PLP)	3.00
Pallo Bangura (RUFF)	1.73
Dr John Karefa-Smart (APC)	1.04
Dr Raymond Kamara (GAP)	0.59
Zainab Hawa Bangura (MOP)	0.55
Bamidele Thompson (CUPP)	0.47
Andrew Turay (YPP)	0.20
Total	100.00

PARLIAMENT

Speaker: Justice E. K. COWAN.

General Election, 14 May 2002

Party	Seats
Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)	83
All-People's Congress (APC)	27
Peace and Liberation Party (PLP)	2
Total	112*

*A further 12 seats were allocated to Paramount Chiefs, who represented the 12 provincial districts.

Political Organizations

A ban on political activity was rescinded in June 1995. Numerous political parties were officially granted registration, prior to elections in May 2002.

All-People's Congress (APC): 39 Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; e-mail info@new-apc.org; internet www.new-apc.org; f. 1960; sole authorized political party 1978-91; merged with the Democratic People's Party in 1992; reconstituted in 1995; Leader ERNEST BAI KOROMA.

Citizens United for Peace and Progress (CUPP): e-mail info@cupp.org; internet www.cupp.org; f. 2002; Chair. ABUBAKARR YANS-SANEH.

Grand Alliance Party (GAP): Freetown; f. 2002; Pres. Dr RAYMOND KAMARA.

Movement for Progress (MOP): Freetown; f. 2002; Pres. ZAINAB HAWA BANGURA.

National Alliance Democratic Party (NADP): Leader MOHAMED YAHYA SILLAH.

National Democratic Alliance (NDA): Leader AMADU M.B. JALLOH.

National Unity Movement (NUM): Leader DESMOND LUKE.

National Unity Party (NUP): e-mail johnben@nupsl.org; internet www.nupsl.org; Leader JOHN OPONJO BENJAMIN (acting).

Peace and Liberation Party (PLP): Freetown; f. 2002; Leader JOHNNY PAUL KOROMA.

People's Democratic Party (PDP): Freetown; supported Sierra Leone People's Party in May 2002 elections; Leader OSMAN KAMARA.

People's National Convention (PNC): Leader EDWARD JOHN KARGBO.

People's Progressive Party (PPP): Leader ABASS CHERNOR BUNDU.

Revolutionary United Front Party (RUFF): 15 Charlotte St, Freetown; tel. (22) 231624; fax (22) 232329; e-mail info@ruff.org; internet www.ruff.org; f. 1991 as rebel movement in conflict with govt forces; after disarmament in Jan. 2002, reconstituted as political party; Leader Gen. ISSA HASSAN SESAY (acting); Sec.-Gen. PALLO BANGURA.

Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP): 29 Rawdon St, Freetown; tel. and fax (22) 228222; e-mail sq-slpp@hotmail.com; internet www.slpp.ws; largest parl. party, following elections in Feb. 1996; Chair. Dr A. K. TURAY.

Social Democratic Party (SDP): Leader ANDREW VICTOR LUNGAY.

United National People's Party (UNPP): Leader Dr JOHN KAREFA-SMART.

Young People's Party (YPP): 19 Lewis St, Freetown; tel. (22) 232907; e-mail info@yppsl.org; internet www.yppsl.org; f. 2002; Leader SYLVIA BLYDEN; Sec.-Gen. ABDUL RAHMAN YILLA.

Diplomatic Representation

EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS IN SIERRA LEONE

China, People's Republic: 29 Wilberforce Loop, Freetown; tel. (22) 231797; Ambassador CHENG WENJU.

Egypt: 174c Wilkinson Rd, POB 652, Freetown; tel. (22) 231245; fax (22) 272231; Ambassador TAREK ABDEL MONEM GHONEIM.

Gambia: 6 Wilberforce St, Freetown; tel. (22) 225191; High Commissioner CRISPIN GREY-JOHNSON.

Ghana: 16 Percival St, Freetown; tel. (22) 223461; fax (22) 227043; High Commissioner EBENEZER ANKU TSEDE.

Guinea: 6 Wilkinson Rd, Freetown; tel. (22) 223080; Ambassador MOHAMED LAMIN SOMPARE.

Lebanon: 22 Wilberforce St, POB 727, Freetown; tel. (22) 222513; Chargé d'affaires a.i. IBRAHIM ASSAF.

Liberia: 10 Motor Rd, Brookfields, POB 276, Freetown; tel. (22) 230991; Chargé d'affaires a.i. SAMUEL PETERS.

Nigeria: 37 Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 224202; fax (22) 224219; High Commissioner POLYCAP AZIGE.

United Kingdom: 6 Spur Rd, Wilberforce, Freetown; tel. (22) 232563; fax (22) 228169; e-mail bhc@sierratel.sl; High Commissioner Dr JOHN MITCHNER.

USA: Walpole and Siaka Stevens Sts, Freetown; tel. (22) 226481; fax (22) 225471; internet freetown.usembassy.gov; Ambassador THOMAS N. HULL.

Judicial System

The Supreme Court

The ultimate court of appeal in both civil and criminal cases. In addition to its appellate jurisdiction, the Court has supervisory jurisdiction over all other courts and over any adjudicating authority in Sierra Leone, and also original jurisdiction in constitutional issues.

Chief Justice: DESMOND LUKE.

Supreme Court Justices: C. A. HARDING, AGNES AWUNOR-RENNER.

The Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal has jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from decisions of the High Court in both criminal and civil matters, and also from certain statutory tribunals. Appeals against its decisions may be made to the Supreme Court.

Justices of Appeal: S. C. E. WARNE, C. S. DAVIES, S. T. NAVO, M. S. TURAY, E. C. THOMPSON-DAVIS, M. O. TAJU-DEEN, M. O. ADOPHY, GEORGE GELAGA KING, Dr A. B. Y. TIMBO, VIRGINIA A. WRIGHT.

High Court

The High Court has unlimited original jurisdiction in all criminal and civil matters. It also has appellate jurisdiction against decisions of Magistrates' Courts.

Judges: FRANCIS C. GBOW, EBUN THOMAS, D. E. M. WILLIAMS, LAURA MARCUS-JONES, L. B. O. NYLANDER, A. M. B. TARAWALLIE, O. H. ALGHALLI, W. A. O. JOHNSON, N. D. ALHADI, R. J. BANKOLE THOMPSON, M. E. T. THOMPSON, C. J. W. ATERE-ROBERTS (acting).

Magistrates' Courts: In criminal cases the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts is limited to summary cases and to preliminary investigations to determine whether a person charged with an offence should be committed for trial.

Local Courts have jurisdiction, according to native law and custom, in matters that are outside the jurisdiction of other courts.

Religion

A large proportion of the population holds animist beliefs, although there are significant numbers of Islamic and Christian adherents.

ISLAM

In 1990 Islamic adherents represented an estimated 30% of the total population.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission: 15 Bath St, Brookfields, POB 353, Freetown; Emir and Chief Missionary KHALIL A. MOBASHIR.

Kankaylay (Sierra Leone Muslim Men and Women's Association): 15 Blackhall Rd, Kissy, POB 1168, Freetown; tel. (22) 250931; e-mail kankaylay@yahoo.com; f. 1972; 500,000 mems; Pres. Alhaji IBRAHIM ALPHA TURAY; Lady Pres. Haja MARIAM TURAY.

Sierra Leone Muslim Congress: POB 875, Freetown; Pres. Alhaji MUHAMMAD SANUSI MUSTAPHA.

CHRISTIANITY

Council of Churches in Sierra Leone: 4A King Harman Rd, Brookfields, POB 404, Freetown; tel. (22) 240568; fax (22) 241109; e-mail ccs@sierratel.sl; f. 1924; 17 mem. churches; Pres. Rev. MOSES B. KHANU; Gen. Sec. ALIMAMY P. KOROMA.

The Anglican Communion

Anglicans in Sierra Leone are adherents of the Church of the Province of West Africa, comprising 12 dioceses, of which two are in Sierra Leone. The Archbishop of the Province is the Bishop of Koforidua, Ghana.

Bishop of Bo: Rt Rev. SAMUEL SAO GBONDA, MacRobert St, POB 21, Bo, Southern Province.

Bishop of Freetown: Rt Rev. JULIUS O. PRINCE LYNCH, Bishopscourt, Fourah Bay Rd, POB 537, Freetown.

Baptist Churches

Sierra Leone Baptist Convention: POB 64, Lunsar; Pres. Rev. JOSEPH S. MANS; Sec. Rev. N. T. DIXON.

The Nigerian Baptist Convention is also active.

Methodist Churches

Methodist Church Sierra Leone: Wesley House, George St, POB 64, Freetown; tel. (22) 222216; autonomous since 1967; Pres. of Conf. Rev. GERSHON F. H. ANDERSON; Sec. Rev. CHRISTIAN V. A. PEACOCK; 26,421 mems.

United Methodist Church: Freetown; Presiding Bishop T. S. BANGURA; 36,857 mems.

Other active Methodist bodies include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion and the West African Methodist Church.

The Roman Catholic Church

Sierra Leone comprises one archdiocese and two dioceses. At 31 December 2003 there were an estimated 187,226 adherents in the country, representing about 3.1% of the total population.

Inter-territorial Catholic Bishops' Conference of The Gambia and Sierra Leone

Santanno House, POB 893, Freetown; tel. (22) 228240; fax (22) 228252.

f. 1971; Pres. Rt Rev. GEORGE BIGUZZI (Bishop of Makeni).

Archbishop of Freetown and Bo: Most Rev. JOSEPH HENRY GANDA, Santanno House, POB 893, Freetown; tel. (22) 224590; fax (22) 224075; e-mail archbis@hotmail.com.

Other Christian Churches

The following are represented: the Christ Apostolic Church, the Church of the Lord (Aladura), the Evangelical Church, the Missionary Church of Africa, the Sierra Leone Church and the United Brethren in Christ.

AFRICAN RELIGIONS

There is a diverse range of beliefs, rites and practices, varying between ethnic and kinship groups.

The Press

DAILY

Daily Mail: 29-31 Rawdon St, POB 53, Freetown; tel. (22) 223191; f. 1931; state-owned; Editor ALIAH MARTIN MONDEH; circ. 10,000.

PERIODICALS

African Crescent: 15 Bath St, POB 353, Brookfields, Freetown; Editor MAULANA-KHALIL A. MOBASHIR.

The Catalyst: Christian Literature Crusade Bookshop, 35 Circular Rd, POB 1465, Freetown; tel. (22) 224382; Editor Dr LEOPOLD FOULLAH.

Concord Times: 139 Pademba Rd, Freetown; 3 a week; Editor DOROTHY GORDON.

Leonean Sun: 49 Main Rd, Wellington, Freetown; tel. (22) 223363; f. 1974; monthly; Editor ROWLAND MARTYN.

Liberty Voice: 139 Pademba Rd, Freetown; tel. (22) 242100; Editor A. MAHDIEU SAVAGE.

New Breed: Freetown; weekly; independent; Man. Editor (vacant).

New Citizen: 5 Hanna Benka-Coker St, Freetown; tel. (22) 241795; Editor I. BEN KARGBO.

The New Globe: 49 Bathurst St, Freetown; tel. (22) 228245; weekly; Man. Editor SAM TUMOE; circ. 4,000.

The New Shaft: 60 Old Railway Line, Brookfields, Freetown; tel. (22) 241093; 2 a week; independent; Editor FRANKLIN BUNTING-DAVIES; circ. 10,000.

The Pool Newspaper: 1 Short St, 5th Floor, Freetown; tel. and fax (22) 220102; e-mail pool@justice.com; internet www.poolnewspaper.tripod.com; f. 1992; 3 a week; independent; Man. Dir CHERNOR OJUKU SESAY; circ. 3,000.

Progress: 1 Short St, Freetown; tel. (22) 223588; weekly; independent; Editor FODE KANDEH; circ. 7,000.

Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce Journal: Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Guma Bldg, 5th

Floor, Lamina Sankoh St, POB 502, Freetown; tel. (22) 226305; fax (22) 228005; monthly.

Unity Now: 82 Pademba Rd, Freetown; tel. (22) 227466; Editor FRANK KPOSOWA.

The Vision: 60 Old Railway Line, Brookfields; tel. (22) 241273; Editor SIKA MASSAQUOI.

Weekend Spark: 7 Lamina Sankoh St, Freetown; tel. (22) 223397; f. 1983; weekly; independent; Editor ROWLAND MARTYN; circ. 20,000.

Weekly Democrat: Freetown; Editor JON FORAY.

NEWS AGENCY

Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA): 15 Wallace Johnson St, PMB 445, Freetown; tel. (22) 224921; fax (22) 224439; f. 1980; Man. Dir ABDUL KARIM JALLOH (acting).

Publishers

Njala University Publishing Centre: Njala University College, PMB, Freetown; science and technology, university textbooks.

Sierra Leone University Press: Fourah Bay College, POB 87, Freetown; tel. (22) 22491; fax (22) 224439; f. 1965; biography, history, Africana, religion, social science, university textbooks; Chair. Prof. ERNEST H. WRIGHT.

United Christian Council Literature Bureau: Bunumbu Press, POB 28, Bo; tel. (32) 462; books in Mende, Temne, Susu; Man. Dir ROBERT SAM-KPAKRA.

Broadcasting and Communications

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Sierra Leone Telecommunications Co (SIERRATEL): 7 Wallace Johnson St, POB 80, Freetown; tel. (22) 222804; fax (22) 224439.

BROADCASTING

Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service: New England, Freetown; tel. (22) 240403; f. 1934; state-controlled; programmes mainly in English and the four main Sierra Leonean vernaculars, Mende, Limba, Temne and Krio; weekly broadcast in French; television service established 1963; Dir-Gen. JEANA BANDATOMO.

Finance

(cap. = capital; res = reserves; dep. = deposits; m. = million; brs = branches; amounts in leones)

BANKING

Central Bank

Bank of Sierra Leone: Siaka Stevens St, POB 30, Freetown; tel. (22) 226501; fax (22) 224764; e-mail info@bankofsierraleone-centralbank.org; internet www.bankofsierraleone-centralbank.org; f. 1964; cap. 24,001.5m., res 6,069.0m., dep. 482,567.1m. (Dec. 2002); Gov. JAMES D. ROGERS; Dep. Gov. MOHAMED S. FOFANA; 1 br.

Other Banks

Guaranty Trust Bank: Sparta Bldg, 12 Wilberforce St, Freetown; tel. (22) 228493; fax (22) 228318; e-mail gtbsl@sierratel.sl; estab. Feb. 2002 through the acquisition of 90% of shareholding of First Merchant Bank of Sierra Leone by Guaranty Trust Bank of Nigeria; cap. 3,313.7m., total assets 4,434.4m. (Dec. 1999); Chair. TAYO ADERINOKUN.

National Development Bank Ltd: Leone House, 6th Floor, 21-23 Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 226792; fax (22) 224468; e-mail ndbbrisk@sierratel.sl; f. 1968; 99% state-owned; provides medium- and long-term finance and tech. assistance to devt-orientated enterprises; cap. 1,604.3m., total assets 1,665.3m. (Dec. 2000); Chair. MURRAY E. S. LAMIN; Man. Dir MOHAMED M. TURAY; 3 brs.

Rokel Commercial Bank of Sierra Leone Ltd: 25-27 Siaka Stevens St, POB 12, Freetown; tel. (22) 222501; fax (22) 222563; e-mail rokelsl@sierratel.sl; internet www.rokelsl.com; f. 1971; cap. 1,119.7m., res 1,776.7m., dep. 83,685.5m. (Dec. 2003); 51% govt-owned; Chair. A. D. A. M'CORMACK; Man. Dir HENRY AKIN MACAULEY; 7 brs.

Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Ltd: 29-31 Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 225264; fax (22) 225292; e-mail slcb@sierratel.sl; internet www.slcb.biz; f. 1973; state-owned; cap. 1,000.0m., res 5,759.9m., dep. 88,911.6m. (Dec. 2003); Chair. I. I. MAY-PARKER; Man. Dir A. KAKAY; 5 brs.

Standard Chartered Bank Sierra Leone Ltd: 9 and 11 Lightfoot-Boston St, POB 1155, Freetown; tel. (22) 225022; fax (22) 225760; e-mail scbsl@sierratel.sl; f. 1971; cap. 813.6m., res 11,897.8m., dep. 55,458.5m. (Dec. 2001); Chair. LLOYD A. DURING; Man. Dir SIMON J. MILLETT; 14 brs.

Union Trust Bank Ltd: Lightfoot Boston St, PMB 1237, Freetown; tel. (22) 226954; fax (22) 226214; e-mail utb@sierratel.sl; fmrlr Meridien BIAO Bank Sierra Leone Ltd; adopted present name in 1995; cap. 672.4m., total assets 12,922.8m. (Dec. 1999); Chair. S. B. NICOL-COLE; Man. Dir J. D. OKRAFO-SMART.

INSURANCE

Aureol Insurance Co Ltd: Kissy House, 54 Siaka Stevens St, POB 647, Freetown; tel. (22) 223435; fax (22) 229336; f. 1987; Chair. LLOYD A. DURING; Man. Dir S. G. BENJAMIN.

National Insurance Co Ltd: 18-20 Walpole St, PMB 84, Freetown; tel. (22) 224328; fax (22) 226097; e-mail nic@sierratel.sl; f. 1972; state-owned; Chair. S. MACAULEY; CEO A. N. YASKEY.

New India Assurance Co Ltd: 18 Wilberforce St, POB 340, Freetown; tel. (22) 226453; fax (22) 222494; Man. Dir A. CHOPRA.

Reliance Insurance Trust Corp Ltd: 24 Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 225115; fax (22) 228051; f. 1985; Chair. MOHAMED B. COLE; Man. Dir ALICE M. ONOMAKE.

Sierra Leone Insurance Co Ltd: 31 Lightfoot Boston St, POB 836, Freetown; tel. (22) 224920; fax (22) 222115; Man. Dir IDRISSE YILLE.

Trade and Industry

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Government Gold and Diamond Office (GGDO): c/o Bank of Sierra Leone, Siaka Stevens St, Freetown; tel. (22) 222600; fax (22) 229064; f. 1985; govt regulatory agency for diamonds and gold; combats illicit trade; Chair. Alhaji M. S. DEEN.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture: Guma Bldg, 5th Floor, Lamina Sankoh St, POB 502, Freetown; tel. (22) 226305; fax (22) 228005; f. 1961; 215 mems; Pres. Alhaji MOHAMED MUSA KING.

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Sierra Leone Export Development and Investment Corp (SLEDIC): 18-20 Walpole St, PMB 6, Freetown; tel. (22) 227604; fax (22) 229097; e-mail sledic@sierratel.sl; f. 1993; Man. Dir CHRIS JASABE.

Small-Medium Scale Businesses Association (Sierra Leone): O.A.U. Drive, Tower Hill, PMB 575, Freetown; tel. (22) 222617; fax (22) 224439; Dir ABU CONTEH.

EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

Sierra Leone Employers' Federation: POB 562, Freetown; Chair. AMADU B. NDOEKA; Exec. Officer L. E. JOHNSON.

Sierra Leone Chamber of Mines: POB 456, Freetown; tel. (22) 226082; f. 1965; mems comprise the principal mining concerns; Pres. D. J. S. FRASER; Exec. Officer N. H. T. BOSTON.

UTILITIES

Electricity

Sierra Leone Electricity Corp: Freetown; supplies all electricity in Sierra Leone.

Water

Guma Valley Water Co: Guma Bldg, 13/14 Lamina Sankoh St, POB 700, Freetown; tel. (22) 25887; e-mail gumasl@sierratel.com; f. 1961; responsible for all existing water supplies in Freetown and surrounding villages, including the Guma dam and associated works.

TRADE UNIONS

Artisans', Ministry of Works Employees' and General Workers' Union: 4 Pultney St, Freetown; f. 1946; 14,500 mems; Pres. IBRAHIM LANGLEY; Gen. Sec. TEJAN A. KASSIM.

Sierra Leone Labour Congress: 35 Wallace Johnson St, POB 1333, Freetown; tel. (22) 226869; f. 1966; c. 51,000 mems in 19 affiliated unions; Pres. H. M. BARRIE; Sec.-Gen. KANDEH YILLA.

Principal affiliated unions:

Clerical, Mercantile and General Workers' Union: 35 Wallace Johnson St, Freetown; f. 1945; 3,600 mems; Pres. M. D. BENJAMIN; Gen. Sec. M. B. WILLIAMS.

Sierra Leone Association of Journalists: Freetown; Pres. SIAGA MASSAQUOI.

Sierra Leone Dockworkers' Union: 165 Fourah Bay Rd, Freetown; f. 1962; 2,650 mems; Pres. D. F. KANU; Gen. Sec. A. C. CONTEH.

Sierra Leone Motor Drivers' Union: 10 Charlotte St, Freetown; f. 1960; 1,900 mems; Pres. A. W. HASSAN; Gen. Sec. ALPHA KAMARA.

Sierra Leone Teachers' Union: Regaland House, Lowcost Step—Kissy, POB 477, Freetown; f. 1951; 18,500 mems; Pres. FESTUS E. MINAH; Sec.-Gen. A. O. TIMBO.

Sierra Leone Transport, Agricultural and General Workers' Union: 4 Pultney St, Freetown; f. 1946; 1,600 mems; Pres. S. O. SAWYERR-MANLEY; Gen. Sec. S. D. KARGBO.

United Mineworkers' Union: 35 Wallace Johnson St, Freetown; f. 1944; 6,500 mems; Pres. H. M. BARRIE; Gen. Sec. S. D. GBENDA.

Also affiliated to the Sierra Leone Labour Congress: **General Construction Workers' Union, Municipal and Local Government Employees' Union, Sierra Leone National Seamen's Union.**

Transport

RAILWAYS

There are no passenger railways in Sierra Leone.

Marampa Mineral Railway: Delco House, POB 735, Freetown; tel. (22) 222556; 84 km of track linking iron ore mines at Marampa (inactive since 1985) with Pepel port; Gen. Man. SYL KHANU.

ROADS

In 2002 there were an estimated 11,300 km of classified roads, including 2,138 km of main roads and 1,950 km of secondary roads; about 904 km of the total network was paved.

Sierra Leone Road Transport Corp'n: Blackhall Rd, POB 1008, Freetown; tel. (22) 250442; fax (22) 250000; f. 1965; state-owned; operates transport services throughout the country; Gen. Man. DANIEL R. W. FAUX.

INLAND WATERWAYS

Established routes for launches, which include the coastal routes from Freetown northward to the Great and Little Scarcies rivers and southward to Bonthe, total almost 800 km. Although some of the upper reaches of the rivers are navigable only between July and September, there is a considerable volume of river traffic.

SHIPPING

Freetown, the principal port, has full facilities for ocean-going vessels.

Sierra Leone National Shipping Co Ltd: 45 Cline St, POB 935, Freetown; tel. (22) 229883; fax (22) 229513; e-mail nsc@sierratel.sl; f. 1972; state-owned; shipping, clearing and forwarding agency; representatives for foreign lines; Chair. Alhaji B. M. KOROMA; Man. Dir SYLVESTER B. FOMBA.

Sierra Leone Ports Authority: Queen Elizabeth II Quay, PMB 386, Cline Town, Freetown; tel. (22) 226480; fax (22) 226443; f. 1965; parastatal body, supervised by the Ministry of Transport and Communications; operates the port of Freetown; Gen. Man. Capt. P. E. M. KEMOKAI.

Sierra Leone Shipping Agencies Ltd: Deep Water Quay, Cline town, POB 74, Freetown; tel. (22) 223453; fax (22) 220021; e-mail slsa@sl.dti.bollore.com; f. 1949; Man. Dir MICHEL MEYNARD.

Silver Star Shipping Agency Ltd: PMB 1023, Freetown; tel. (22) 221035; fax (22) 226653; e-mail silver2_star@hotmail.com; Dir Capt. H. A. BLOOMER.

CIVIL AVIATION

There is an international airport at Lungi.

Directorate of Civil Aviation: Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministerial Bldg, 5th Floor, George St, Freetown; tel. (22) 222106; Dir T. T. A. VANDY.

Sierra National Airlines: Leone House, 25 Pultney St, POB 285, Freetown; tel. (22) 222075; fax (22) 222026; e-mail alpha@kanu; f. 1982; state-owned; operates domestic and regional services, and a weekly flight to Paris, France; operations resumed, following civil conflict, in Nov. 2000; Chair. TAMBA MATTURI; Man. Dir ADAM COR-MACK.

Tourism

The main attractions for tourists are the coastline, the mountains and the game reserves. However, civil conflict throughout most of the 1990s effectively suspended tourist activity. In 2002, according to preliminary figures, tourist arrivals recovered to 28,463, compared with 10,615 in 1999. Receipts from tourism totalled an estimated US \$12m. in 2000.

National Tourist Board: Cape Sierra Hotel, Room 100, Aberdeen, POB 1435, Freetown; tel. (22) 230321; fax (22) 272197; e-mail ntbslinfo@yahoo.com; f. 1990; Gen. Man. CECIL J. WILLIAMS.

SINGAPORE

Introductory Survey

Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital

The Republic of Singapore lies in South-East Asia. The country comprises one main island and some 64 offshore islands, situated approximately 137 km (85 miles) north of the Equator, off the southernmost tip of the Malay Peninsula, to which it is linked by a causeway. The climate is equatorial, with a uniformly high daily and annual temperature varying between 24°C and 27°C (75°F–80°F). Relative humidity is high (often exceeding 90%), and the average annual rainfall is 235 cm (93 ins). There are four official languages—Malay (the national language), Chinese (Mandarin), Tamil and English. The language of administration is English. Chinese dialects were spoken as a first language by 24% of the population in 2000. The principal religions are Daoism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. The national flag (proportions 2 by 3) has two equal horizontal stripes of red and white, with a white crescent moon and five white stars, arranged in a pentagram, in the upper hoist. The capital is Singapore City.

Recent History

In 1826 the East India Company formed the Straits Settlements by the union of Singapore and the dependencies of Penang and Malacca on the Malay Peninsula. They came under British rule in 1867 as a crown colony. Singapore was occupied by Japan for three years during the Second World War. At the end of the war, following Japan's defeat, Singapore was governed by a British military administration. When civil rule was restored in 1946, Singapore was detached from the other Straits Settlements and became a separate crown colony. A new Constitution, adopted in February 1955, introduced some measure of self-government, and in June 1959 the state achieved complete internal self-government, with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister. The Federation of Malaysia came into being in September 1963, with Singapore as a constituent state. On 9 August 1965, following irreconcilable differences with the central Government in Malaysia, Singapore seceded from the federation and became an independent country. Singapore joined the UN in September and became a member of the Commonwealth in October. In December Singapore was proclaimed a republic, with a President as constitutional Head of State. In May 1973 the last major ties with Malaysia, concerning currency and finance, were renounced. In September 1972 Lee Kuan Yew's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) won all 65 parliamentary seats in a general election.

After independence the Government supported a strong US military presence in South-East Asia. However, with the collapse of US influence in the area during 1974–75, Singapore adopted a conciliatory attitude towards the People's Republic of China and its communist neighbours. The Government called for the removal of foreign bases from member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN, see p. 162), and advocated a policy of neutrality. Singapore sought to consolidate its trade links with China, although diplomatic relations were not established until 1982.

At general elections in December 1976 and again in December 1980, the PAP won all 69 seats in the enlarged Parliament. The PAP's monopoly ended in October 1981, however, when the Secretary-General of the opposition Workers' Party, J. B. Jeyaretnam, won a by-election. This posed no direct threat, but, in order to reassert its authority, the Government increased its control over trade unions and restructured the ownership of major newspapers. The PAP was again returned to power in December 1984 with a large majority in Parliament (now enlarged to 79 seats), but the party lost two seats to opposition parties, and its share of the total votes was reduced to 62.9% from 75% in 1980. A constitutional amendment approved in July 1984 provided for up to three 'non-constituency' parliamentary seats for the opposition (with restricted voting rights) if none was won in the election. One extra seat was subsequently offered to the losing opposition candidate with the highest percentage of votes. However, this seat was refused by the Workers' Party in January 1985. In March the state President, Devan Nair, resigned. A new President, Wee Kim Wee (hitherto

the Chairman of the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation), was elected by Parliament in August.

During 1986 the Government exhibited signs of increasing intolerance towards its critics. In August amendments to the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act were hurriedly adopted, enabling Parliament to fine, expel or imprison members who were deemed to have abused their parliamentary privileges. In the same month Parliament also approved a Newspaper and Printing Presses (Amendment) Act, which empowered the Government to restrict the distribution of foreign publications deemed to be interfering in domestic political affairs; the circulation of several foreign periodicals was subsequently restricted.

In November 1986 Jeyaretnam (one of the two opposition members of Parliament) was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and fined S \$5,000 (enough, according to the Constitution, to deprive him of his parliamentary seat and prevent him from standing for election for five years), when the Supreme Court upheld a conviction for perjury in connection with bankruptcy proceedings brought against the Workers' Party four years previously. In February 1987 Jeyaretnam was also fined by a parliamentary committee for abuse of privilege, having made allegations of government interference in the judiciary; further fines were imposed on him for publishing 'distorted' accounts of an earlier hearing of the committee, and (in May) for alleged contempt of Parliament and abuse of parliamentary privilege. In October Jeyaretnam's removal from the Law Society register was ordered by a three-judge court. An appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the United Kingdom (then the highest court of appeal for Singapore) resulted, in October 1988, in his reinstatement as a practising lawyer. During the course of the appeal, investigations into Jeyaretnam's previous convictions found that they had been 'fatally flawed'. However, since the criminal case had been considered in the District Court, where there was no right of appeal to the Privy Council, the original convictions prevented Jeyaretnam from re-entering Parliament without a presidential pardon. This was refused by Wee Kim Wee in May 1989.

In May and June 1987 the Government detained 22 people (including 10 Roman Catholic church workers and four members of the Workers' Party) without trial, under the Internal Security Act, for alleged involvement in a 'Marxist conspiracy' to subvert state organizations. The arrests were denounced by Jeyaretnam, who claimed that the Government wished to intimidate Singaporeans so that they would not support opposition parties. In November the Government was also criticized by international human rights groups, including Amnesty International, for its refusal to present evidence of such a conspiracy in court. By December most of the alleged conspirators had been released, but eight of them were rearrested in April 1988, after complaining that they had been tortured while in detention. Four prisoners were released by June, and in December a further four detainees were released in accordance with a ruling by the Court of Appeal, based on a fault in their detention orders. They were immediately rearrested. The trial had, however, established a precedent for the judicial review of cases brought under the Internal Security Act, including the acceptability to the courts of evidence used in warrants for the arrest of suspects. In January 1989 Parliament approved legislation ensuring that the judiciary could examine such detentions only on technical grounds, and abolishing the right of appeal to the Privy Council in cases brought under the Internal Security Act. In March three detainees were released. The two remaining prisoners (of the original 22) remained in detention until June 1990.

A general election was held in September 1988. The electoral system was altered so that 39 of the existing 79 constituencies were replaced by 13 'group representation constituencies', to be contested by teams of three representatives for each party, at least one of whom was to be a member of an ethnic minority (i.e. non-Chinese). The declared aim was to ensure the presence of racial minorities in Parliament; in practice, however, opposition parties with few resources were handicapped by the diffi-